

SCHOOL OF ENGLISH, FILM AND THEATRE
2006 2/3

ENGL 308: RENAISSANCE LITERATURE

Pieter Brueghel, *Battle of the Piggy-Banks and Strong-Boxes*, c. 1560

Lecture Timetable: Tuesday, Friday 2-3 p.m.
Hunter Lecture Theatre 119

Tutorials: To be arranged during the first week of the course.
Tutorial lists will be posted on the English noticeboard, in the Hugh Mackenzie corridor beside HM 206, and on the **ENGL 308 Blackboard site**, where course information and notices will also be posted.
Tutorials begin on Monday 17 July.

Course Convener: Linda Hardy, VZ 720/ 814; ph. 463-6806
E-mail: linda.hardy@vuw.ac.nz
Dr Brian Opie, VZ 804; ph. 463-6812 (Till July 28)
E-mail: brian.opie@vuw.ac.nz

Administrator: Helen O'Sullivan, VZ 809A; 463-6800;
helen.osullivan@vuw.ac.nz

Texts (in order of study):

John Webster, *The Duchess of Malfi* (Revels Student Editions)
Renaissance Anthology (Student Notes)
Francis Bacon, *Essays* (Penguin)
Ben Jonson, *The Alchemist in Volpone and Other Plays* (Penguin)
Philip Massinger, *A New Way to Pay Old Debts* (Student Notes)
John Milton, *Paradise Lost* (Penguin).

LECTURE PROGRAMME

July	11	Introduction [BOpie]
	14	Webster's <i>Duchess of Malfi</i> (1) [BO]
	18	Webster's <i>Duchess of Malfi</i> (2) [BO]
	21	Webster's <i>Duchess of Malfi</i> (3) [BO]
	25	" <i>Integer vitae</i> ": poems [BO]
	28	Jonson's <i>The Alchemist</i> (1) [LH – and all following lectures]
August	1	Jonson's <i>The Alchemist</i> (2)
	4	Jonson's <i>The Alchemist</i> (3)
	8	Jonson's <i>The Alchemist</i> (4)
	11	The happy life: poems of retirement and private life
	15	Massinger's <i>A New Way to Pay Old Debts</i> (1)
	18	Massinger's <i>A New Way to Pay Old Debts</i> (2)
September	5	Massinger's <i>A New Way to Pay Old Debts</i> (3)
	8	Civil wars: the cavalier poets
	12	Civil wars: Marvell's "Horatian Ode"; Milton's "Cromwell"
	15	The problem of truth: Bacon and Donne
	19	Free speech: from Milton's <i>Areopagitica</i>
	22	Milton's <i>Paradise Lost</i> (1)
	26	<i>Paradise Lost</i> (2)
29	<i>Paradise Lost</i> (3)	
October	3	<i>Paradise Lost</i> (4)
	6	<i>Paradise Lost</i> (5)
	10	<i>Paradise Lost</i> (6)
	13	<i>Paradise Lost</i> (7)

Course aims:

This course is about the literary culture of Stuart England: the period from Elizabeth I's death in 1603, through the Civil Wars of the 1640's culminating in the execution of Charles I, to the Restoration of monarchy in the 1660's. It is based on a study of selected plays, poems and prose by major (and some minor) writers of the time, including Ben Jonson, John Webster, Philip Massinger, Francis Bacon, John Donne, Andrew Marvell and John Milton.

It explores the significance of this turbulent period in English literary and political history through three main topics: (i) tragedy and the politics of the court; (ii) London city comedy and the development of a modern urban and commercial culture; and (iii) the representation in drama and poetry of rural society.

Issues of truth, integrity, conscience and free speech are in the foreground of much of this writing. The final section of the course examines Milton's epic poem, *Paradise Lost*, in the context of Milton's commitment to republican politics and as his deeply meditated response to the failure of the "English revolution".

"Renaissance Literature", for the purposes of the course, is the set texts, although you are encouraged to read more widely in areas of personal interest. You should own the set texts.

Objectives:

By the end of the course, you should

- be familiar with all the set texts and capable of writing about them in detail
- be able to think and write comparatively about different texts – and different genres - from a particular historical "period"
- have developed a basic understanding of how to read literary and dramatic texts as complex, and sometimes competing, interpretations of the historical worlds in which they are made

Workload:

You should expect to spend, on average, about **18 hours per week** on work for this course (apart from time in class). Please note that this is a rough guideline only. Some students might have to put in more time, others less. The time commitment will be greatest in the weeks immediately prior to essay submission dates.

Mandatory Requirements:

In order to satisfy the course requirements, you must:

- attend at least **70% of tutorials** (i.e., 8 of the 11 tutorials);
- complete all of the internal assessment pieces by **Friday 13 October** at the very latest (unless you are granted an extension by the Head of School);
- sit the final **examination**.

Failure to satisfy the mandatory course requirements will leave you with a fail grade.

Assessment:

Your final grade will be based on either a combination of your in-term work (50%) and your exam mark (50%); or your examination mark alone (100%); whichever is the higher mark. **You must however complete both the assignments as well as sit the examination in order to pass the course.**

Your assignments have been designed to help you meet the objectives of the course, and to ensure that all areas of the course are studied in some depth. You are asked to think about relationships among the set texts, and to compare the different perspectives they offer on the culture of their time.

1. Term Work: 50%

Term work involves *two* assessed pieces of written work.

- i) **Critical analysis.** 20 % of final grade. Length: 1500 words.
Due date: Monday 7 August (4pm)
- ii) **Comparative essay.** 30% of final grade. Length: 2500-3000 words.
An essay on a general topic (to be circulated).
Due date: Monday 18 September (4pm)

2. Final Examination: 3 hours. 50% of final grade (or 100% if in your favour).

This is a “restricted materials” examination. That means you may take any or all of your set texts with you into the examination. Lecture and other notes are not permitted, though your texts may contain a moderate amount of annotation.

Section A: a critical analysis of a passage from Milton’s *Paradise Lost*. 40% of exam.

Section B: a choice of general essay topics, from which you must select one. You will be expected to include evidence to support your argument from at least four of the set texts, one of which must be *Paradise Lost*. 60% of exam.

EXTENSIONS FOR TERM WORK

The deadlines for term work must be strictly observed. Late work submitted without an extension will be accepted, as long as it is received by **13 October**, but it will be **penalised** by a lowering of the grade (e.g., A to A-, C+ to C), and comments may be minimal.

If you need an extension beyond the due date for any piece of work, you should apply to the course convener, Linda Hardy, **before the due date**, providing supporting documentation (e.g. medical certificate, note from Counselling service, etc) if at all possible. **Late work submitted with an extension** will be graded in the normal way, without a penalty. Make sure you plan your work in advance to deal with competing deadlines - the final weeks of the trimester are particularly risky in this respect.

Extensions will not be granted beyond the final day of lectures (13 October) without the permission of the Head of School (Professor Robert Easting).

PRESENTATION OF WRITTEN WORK

Please submit your written work in the following format:

1. Complete a cover sheet/title page for each essay, which includes your name, your tutor's name, your tutorial time, and the question number/title you have chosen to write on.
2. Write on one side of the page only.
3. Leave a margin of about 5 cm on the left for comments. If you type your essay, use double-spacing not single-spacing of lines.
4. Number all pages and pin securely with staple or paper clip.
5. Follow guidelines for referencing and quotation as set out in the booklet *Guidelines for SEFT Students*. This is also available on the SEFTMS website. Essays which fail to conform to minimum presentation standards or which do not include a bibliography will be marked and returned without a grade until a corrected version is sighted.
6. Hand in on the due date, **by 4pm** at the latest.

GENERAL UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND STATUTES

Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly those regarding assessment and course of study requirements, and formal academic grievance procedures.

Student Conduct and Staff Conduct

The Statute on Student Conduct together with the Policy on Staff Conduct ensure that members of the University community are able to work, learn, study and participate in the academic and social aspects of the University's life in an atmosphere of safety and respect. The Statute on Student Conduct contains information on what conduct is prohibited and what steps can be taken if there is a complaint. For queries about complaint procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct, contact the Facilitator and Disputes Advisor. This Statute is available in the Faculty Student Administration Office or on the website at:

www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/StudentConduct.

The policy on Staff Conduct can be found on the VUW website at:

www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/StaffConduct.

Academic Grievances

If you have any academic problems with your course you should talk to the tutor or lecturer concerned or, if you are not satisfied with the result of that meeting, see the Head of School or the relevant Associate Dean of your faculty. Class representatives are available to assist you with this process. If, after trying the above channels, you are still unsatisfied, formal grievance procedures can be invoked. These are set out in the Academic Grievance Policy which is published on the VUW website:

www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/AcademicGrievances.

Academic integrity and Plagiarism

Academic integrity is about honesty – put simply it means **no cheating**. All members of the University community are responsible for upholding academic integrity, which means staff and students are expected to behave honestly, fairly and with respect for others at all times.

Plagiarism is a form of cheating which undermines academic integrity. Plagiarism is **prohibited** at Victoria.

The University defines plagiarism as follows:

Plagiarism is presenting someone else's work as if it were your own, whether you mean to or not.

'Someone else's work' means anything that is not your own idea, even if it is presented in your own style. It includes material from books, journals or any other printed source, the work of other students

or staff, information from the Internet, software programmes and other electronic material, designs and ideas. It also includes the organization or structuring of any such material.

Plagiarism is not worth the risk.

Any enrolled student found guilty of plagiarism will be subject to disciplinary procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct (www.vuw.ac.nz/policy/studentconduct) and may be penalized severely. Consequences of being found guilty of plagiarism can include:

- an oral or written warning
- suspension from class or university
- cancellation of your mark for an assessment or a fail grade for the course.

Find out more about plagiarism and how to avoid it, on the University's website at: www.vuw.ac.nz/home/studying/plagiarism.html.

Students with Disabilities

The University has a policy of reasonable accommodation of the needs of students with disabilities. The policy aims to give students with disabilities an equal opportunity with all other students to demonstrate their abilities. If you have a disability, impairment or chronic medical condition (temporary, permanent or recurring) that may impact on your ability to participate, learn and/or achieve in lectures and tutorials or in meeting the course requirements, please contact the Course Co-ordinator as early in the course as possible. Alternatively you may wish to approach a Student Adviser from Disability Support Services to confidentially discuss your individual needs and the options and support that are available. Disability Support Services are located on Level 1, Robert Stout Building:

Telephone: 463-6070

Email: disability@vuw.ac.nz

The name of your School's Disability Liaison Person is in the relevant prospectus or can be obtained from the Administrative Assistant.

Student Support

Staff at Victoria want students' learning experiences at the University to be positive. If your academic progress is causing you concern, the following staff members will either help you directly or quickly put you in contact with someone who can.

	Staff member	Location
FHSS	Dr Allison Kirkman	Murphy Building, room 407
Law	Kirstin Harvey	Old Govt Building, room 103
Science, and Architecture and Design	Liz Richardson	Cotton Building, room 150
Commerce and Administration	Colin Jeffcoat	Railway West Wing, room 119
Kaiwawao Maori	Liz Rawhiti	Old Kirk, room 007
Manaaki Pihipihinga	Melissa Dunlop	14 Kelburn Pde, room 109D
Victoria International	Anne Cronin	10 Kelburn Pde, room 202

The Student Services Group is also available to provide a variety of support and services. Find out more at:

www.vuw.ac.nz/st_services/

Email: student-services@vuw.ac.nz.

VUWSA employs two Education Coordinators who deal with academic problems and provide support, advice and advocacy services, as well as organising class representatives and faculty delegates. The Education Office is located on the ground floor, Student Union Building: Telephone 463 6983 or 463 698

Email: education@vuwsa.org.nz.

CHRONOLOGY: Stuart England

Jacobean period 1603-1625

- 1603 Death of Elizabeth I; James (Stuart) VI of Scotland crowned James I of England.
- 1610 Ben Jonson's *The Alchemist* first performed (first published 1612)
- 1611-12 Jonson's "To Penshurst" written
- 1612-14 Webster's *The Duchess of Malfi* first performed

Caroline period 1625-1649

- 1625 Accession of James I's son Charles I
- c. 1625 Massinger's *A New Way to Pay Old Debts* first performed
- 1629-40 So-called "personal rule" of Charles, without recourse to Parliament
- 1640 Parliament meets for the first time since 1629; conflict between the King and the parliamentary leaders
- 1642-48 Civil war between royalist and parliamentary armies
- 1644 Milton's *Areopagitica* published
- 1649 Trial and execution of Charles I; England proclaimed a republic

Republican England 1649-1660

- 1650 Marvell writes "An Horatian Ode"
- 1653 Oliver Cromwell proclaimed Lord Protector
- 1658 Death of Cromwell

Restoration England 1660-1688

- 1660 Restoration of monarchy; Charles II (son of Charles I) reigns till 1685
- 1667 Milton publishes *Paradise Lost*