

ENGL 410 Renaissance Studies: Literature and Cultural Politics

Trimester 1 2014

3 March to 2 July 2014

30 Points



Eikon Basilike (1649)

IMPORTANT DATES

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| Teaching dates: | 3 March to 6 June 2014 |
| Easter/Mid-Trimester break: | 18 April to 4 May 2014 |
| Study week: | 9 to 13 June 2014 |
| Examination/Assessment period: | 13 June to 2 July 2014 |

Note: Students who enrol in courses with examinations must be able to attend an examination at the University at any time during the scheduled examination period.

Withdrawal Dates: Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds. If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats.

CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Most seminars are held on Mondays 2-4.50pm in von Zedlitz 808.

Please note that in weeks 3, 5 and 12 seminars will be held on Fridays 9 - 12 noon instead. The seminar in week 5 (on Friday 4 April) will be at the Alexander Turnbull Library on Molesworth Street; further details to be advised.

NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS

| Staff | Email | Phone | Room | |
|---------------|--|---------|-------|--------------------|
| Dr Sarah Ross | sarah.ross@vuw.ac.nz | 4636806 | vZ812 | Course Coordinator |

Office hours: by appointment. Email me on sarah.ross@vuw.ac.nz to make a time.

COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The course outline, announcements, assignment topics, information about seminars and recommendations for extra reading will be posted on the course's Blackboard site.

If you are not going to use the Victoria email address set up for you, we strongly encourage you to set a forward from the Victoria email system to the email address you do use.

PRESCRIPTION

A study of poetry and politics in the English revolution, with a focus on the poetry of Andrew Marvell and the complete texts of John Milton's *Paradise Lost* and *Samson Agonistes*. Students taking this course will be encouraged to think about the relationship of poetry to the political and religious ferment of mid seventeenth century England, and about the relationship of writing to fighting at a time of enormous cultural change.

COURSE CONTENT

This course explores the poetry that emerged out of the English Civil Wars and Interregnum, the "English Revolution" that occurred between 1642 and 1660. With civil war culminating in the execution of King Charles I in 1649, and almost ten subsequent years of an English republic, it is unsurprising that the poetry of the period is preoccupied with the social, cultural, political, and intellectual upheaval out of which it emerged. The

focus of this course is on the relationship between poetics and the religious and political cultures of seventeenth-century England, and on what it means to read poetry in relation to its historical context.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES (CLOS)

By the end of this course should be able to:

1. discuss in detail (both orally and in writing) the set poetic texts, and key critical works relating to them
2. demonstrate a good understanding of how to read literary texts as complex responses to, and interpretations of, the historical worlds in which they are made
3. produce independent research in seventeenth-century literary studies, using a range of primary and secondary texts appropriate to the topic

TEACHING FORMAT

This course is taught in a seminar format, which is centred on active class discussion of the texts set in any given week. You are expected to be well-prepared for classes: up-to-date with your reading, and ready to introduce and lead discussion.

You are expected to attend **all** seminars. If exceptional circumstances mean that you are unable to attend a seminar, you must contact me as soon as possible.

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

In addition to achieving an overall pass mark of 50%, students must:

- Complete the class seminar presentation and submit the written work specified for the course, on or by the specified dates (subject to the provisions that are stated for late submission of work)
- Sit the final exam.

WORKLOAD

The expected workload for a 30 point course is 300 hours over the trimester or 20 hours per teaching week.

The university expects that you should be able to devote at least **24 hours per week** to a one trimester course in a full-time 4-course graduate programme. This includes the time you should give to weekly reading and seminar attendance, and research and preparation for assignments and the examination.

Within these guidelines, individual students will need to make their own judgements about the amount of time they need to dedicate to each element of the course.

ASSESSMENT

There are four pieces of assessment in this course:

School of English, Film, Theatre, & Media Studies
ENGLISH PROGRAMME COURSE OUTLINE ENGL 410

| Assessment items and workload per item | | % | CLO(s) | Due date |
|--|--|-----|--------|-----------------|
| 1 | Seminar Paper 1500 words | 10% | 1,2 | variable |
| 2 | Research proposal and annotated bibliography 1-2 pages + annotated bibliography | 20% | 3 | 11 April 5pm |
| 3 | Research Paper 5000 words | 30% | 1,2,3 | 23 May 5pm |
| 4 | Final Exam 3 hours | 40% | 1,2 | Tba |

Seminar paper: due date depends on topic (10%)

Each student will be required to lead a seminar discussion on one of the critical readings set for weekly classes. This will involve giving a presentation of approximately 10 minutes on the critical reading, discussing its strengths and weaknesses **and relating its arguments to the relevant poetic text(s)**. You are required to provide a written version of this presentation (a maximum of 1500 words), to be handed in the day before the class. Email this to me as an attachment in Word. Your paper and your presentation should include two discussion questions for the class, and you will be responsible for facilitating discussion on those questions after the completion of your presentation. This discussion should last 20-30 minutes.

The presentation itself is not graded but must be completed. The written paper will be graded and returned to you the following week. This is a formal piece of work and should be presented accordingly, including a scholarly bibliography presented in MLA style.

Students will have the opportunity to select a topic and date for their presentation (for classes running in weeks 4-12) during the first class of the trimester.

This assessment relates to Learning Objectives 1 and 2.

Research proposal: due date Friday 11 April 2014 (20%) 5pm

Each student will be required to submit a research proposal for the research paper (Assessment 3), with an annotated bibliography attached. Topics for Assessments 2/3 are to be devised in relation to the primary and secondary texts covered in weeks 1-7 of this course (i.e. you may not write on *Paradise Lost* for your research proposal and research paper).

The proposal must include a research question and a thesis statement (a statement of your argument in relation to the research question). These must be clearly and confidently articulated, and provide a firm basis

for the proposal that you submit, and for assessment and feedback from me. Please note, however, that you will not be held to the original research question and thesis statement in your final research paper: it is a natural and expected aspect of the research process that these may evolve and change. The proposal should be 1-2 pages long (double-spaced), and it should offer: a brief background to the research question; an indication of major sub-topics that the research paper will encompass; and a brief discussion of the major primary texts / sections of primary texts that the research paper will analyse.

The annotated bibliography should include 5-10 entries, each annotated with an entry of 1-2 short paragraphs. The bibliography must be presented in MLA style; the annotations should demonstrate your ability to identify and access material that is relevant to your research question, and the annotations should briefly outline and evaluate each item's relevance.

This assessment relates to Learning Objective 3.

Research paper: due date Friday 23 May 2014 (5000 words; 30%) 5pm

Each student will complete a major research paper on a topic of their choice, relating to the primary and secondary texts covered in weeks 1-7 of this course. This paper should demonstrate a deep engagement with primary and secondary texts; an understanding of literary texts as complex responses to, and interpretations of, the historical worlds in which they are made; and the ability to construct and articulate a well-researched academic argument.

This assessment relates to Learning Objectives 1-3.

Final examination: 3 hours, 40%

The final examination will take place during the mid-year examination period 13 June to 2 July 2014. This will be a “**restricted materials**” exam, allowing you to bring **only your copies of the set texts** into the examination room. These may be moderately annotated.

You will be required to answer three questions from a range of options, two of which will focus on Milton's *Paradise Lost*, and one of which will ask for a broader engagement in the course's themes and concerns.

Further details of the examination paper format will be provided in class and on Blackboard.

This assessment relates to Learning Objectives 1-2.

Please note: Marks for Honours level assignments and final course grades are not finalised until feedback from the external examiner has been considered. Honours grades gained in individual courses remain provisional until the overall final classification made by the Honours programme examination committee.

SUBMISSION AND RETURN OF WORK

Assignment cover sheets and extension forms can be found on Blackboard or outside the Administration office: von Zedlitz level 8. Remember to fill in your lecturer's name.

For the purposes of external examining, you must hand in two identical hard copies of each assignment. One copy will be marked and returned to you. You must also submit an electronic copy of your research proposal and research paper to Turnitin. Follow the instructions provided in the "Assignments and Turnitin" section of Blackboard.

Your marked assignment will be handed back in class time or can be collected from my office (normally within three weeks of submission). Any uncollected assignments can be picked up from the Programme Administrator after the end of the course. Assignments will be held in the Administration office until the end of the following trimester. You need to show your student identification to collect marked assignment from the Administration office.

EXTENSIONS AND PENALTIES

Extensions

In exceptional and unforeseen circumstances an extension may be granted. If you require an extension, you must complete an extension request form (available on your course Blackboard site) prior to the assignment due date. This must be accompanied by relevant documentation (e.g. a doctor's certificate) where appropriate.

Please note: no assignment without an extension will be accepted after Friday 14 June 2014. The Course Coordinator will not give an extension beyond Wednesday 2 July 2014.

Penalties

Work submitted after the deadline will be penalised by a 2.5 percent deduction from your total mark per work day. Late work also receives only minimal comments from your marker.

SET TEXTS

ENGL 410 Student Notes;

Alan Rudrum, Joseph Black, and Holly Faith Nelson (eds), *The Broadview Anthology of Seventeenth-Century Verse* (Broadview, 2001). **NB Verse volume only;**

Gordon Teskey (ed.), John Milton, *Paradise Lost* (Norton, 2005).

You can order textbooks and student notes online at www.vicbooks.co.nz or can email an order or enquiry to enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz.

RECOMMENDED READING

An extended list of recommended reading will be provided on Blackboard.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism
- Aegrotats: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades
- Resolving academic issues: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Special passes: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute:
www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter
- Student Contract: www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library/resources/subjectcontacts.html>
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz
- School website: www.victoria.ac.nz/seftms

COURSE PROGRAMME

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|-------------------------------|---------|---|
| Week 1 | Mar 3 | Introduction: The English Civil War and Poetry |
| | | Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• You should dip into David Loewenstein and John Morrill, "Literature and Religion" (Book of Readings) in preparation for the first week's seminar, and revisit it during the course of the trimester• Herrick, "To the Virgins, to make much of time"; "Corinna's Going A Maying"; Herrick's introductory poems to <i>Hesperides</i> (pp. 100-101); Katherine Philips, 'Upon the Double Murder of K. Charles I' (all in the <i>Broadview Anthology</i>) |
| Week 2 | Mar 10 | Robert Herrick |
| | | Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Herrick poems in the Broadview anthology and Book of Readings, especially "The Hock-cart", "His Return to London", "Rex Tragicus"• Claude J. Summers, "Herrick's Political Counterplots", in <i>Studies in English Literature</i>, 25 (1985), 165-82• Leah S. Marcus, "Afterword: Herrick and Historicism", <i>George Herbert Journal</i>, 14.1-2 (1990), a special issue on Herrick, 172-77 |
| Week 3 | Friday | Andrew Marvell (1) |
| (Student presentations begin) | Mar 21 | Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Marvell, "An Horatian Ode", "The Nymph Complaining for the Death of her Fawn"• David Norbrook, "Marvell's 'Horatian Ode' and the Politics of Genre", from <i>Literature and the English Civil War</i>, ed. Thomas Healy and Jonathan Sawday (Cambridge, 1990), pp. 147-169• Graham Parry, "What is Marvell's Nymph Complaining About?", <i>Critical Survey</i>, 5 (1993), 244-51 |
| Week 4 | Mar 24 | Marvell (2) |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Marvell, "Upon Appleton House", "The Picture of Little TC"• A.D. Cousins, "Marvell's 'Upon Appleton House, to my Lord Fairfax' and the Regaining of Paradise", from <i>The Political Identity of Andrew Marvell</i>, ed. Conal Condren and A.D. Cousins (Scolar Press, 1990), pp. 53-84 |
| Week 5 | Friday | 1649 / Alexander Turnbull Library session |
| | April 4 | Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Milton, <i>Eikonoklastes</i>, Preface + Part I, in <i>Complete Prose Works of John</i> |

Milton, Volume 3 (1648-9), ed. Merritt Y. Hughes (New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1962), pp. 337-368

- Steven N. Zwicker, "The King's Head and the Politics of Literary Property: The *Eikon Basilike* and *Eikonoklastes*", from *Lines of Authority: Politics and English Literary Culture, 1649-1689* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1993), pp. 37-59

Week 6 Apr 7 **John Milton, *Samson Agonistes* (1)**

Readings:

- *Samson Agonistes* (full text)
- Blair Worden, "Milton, *Samson Agonistes*, and the Restoration", in *Culture and Society in the Stuart Restoration: Literature, Drama, History*, ed. Gerald MacLean (Cambridge UP, 1995), pp. 111-136

Research proposal due Friday 11 April, 5pm

Week 7 Apr 14 ***Samson Agonistes* (2)**

Readings:

- *Samson Agonistes* (full text)
- John Carey, "A Work in Praise of Terrorism?", *TLS*, 6 September 2002; Stanley Fish, "'Is there Nothing He Cannot Ask': Milton, Liberalism, and Terrorism", in *Milton in the Age of Fish*, ed. Michael Lieb & Albert C. Labriola (Duquesne UP, 2006), pp. 243-64

Mid Trimester Break: Friday 18 April to Sunday 4 May 2014

Week 8 May 5 **Milton, *Paradise Lost* (1): Satan and Milton's theodicy**

Readings:

- *PL*, Books 1-2, 4
- Stanley Fish, *Surprised by Sin: the Reader in Paradise Lost* (London: Macmillan, 1967), pp. 1-23

Week 9 May 12 ***Paradise Lost* (2): monarchy in Heaven**

Readings:

- *PL*, Book 3
- Nigel Smith, "*Paradise Lost* from Civil War to Restoration", from *The Cambridge Companion to the Writing of the English Revolution*, ed. N. H. Keeble (Cambridge UP, 2001), pp. 251-267

Week 10 May 19 ***Paradise Lost* (3): Raphael and Milton's paideutics**

Readings:

- *PL*, Books 5-7
- Mary Ann Radzinowicz, "The Politics of *Paradise Lost*", in *Politics of Discourse: The Literature and History of Seventeenth-Century England*, ed. Kevin Sharpe and Steven N. Zwicker (University of California Press, 1987)

Research paper due Friday 23 May 5pm

Week 11 May 26 ***Paradise Lost (4): The Fall***

Readings:

- *PL*, Books 8-10
- Diane K. McColley, "Milton and the Sexes", in Dennis Danielson (ed.), *The Cambridge Companion to Milton* (CUP, 1999), pp. 147-166

Week 12 **Friday** ***Paradise Lost (5): Sacred history***

Jun 6

- *PL*, Books 11-12
- H. R. McCallum, "Milton and Sacred History: Books XI and XII of *Paradise Lost*", in *Essays in English Literature from the Renaissance to the Victorian Age*, ed. Millar MacLure and F.R. Watt (Toronto: Toronto UP, 1964), pp. 149-168

Study Week: Monday 9 to Friday 13 June 2014

Examination Period: Friday 13 June to Wednesday 2 July 2014