

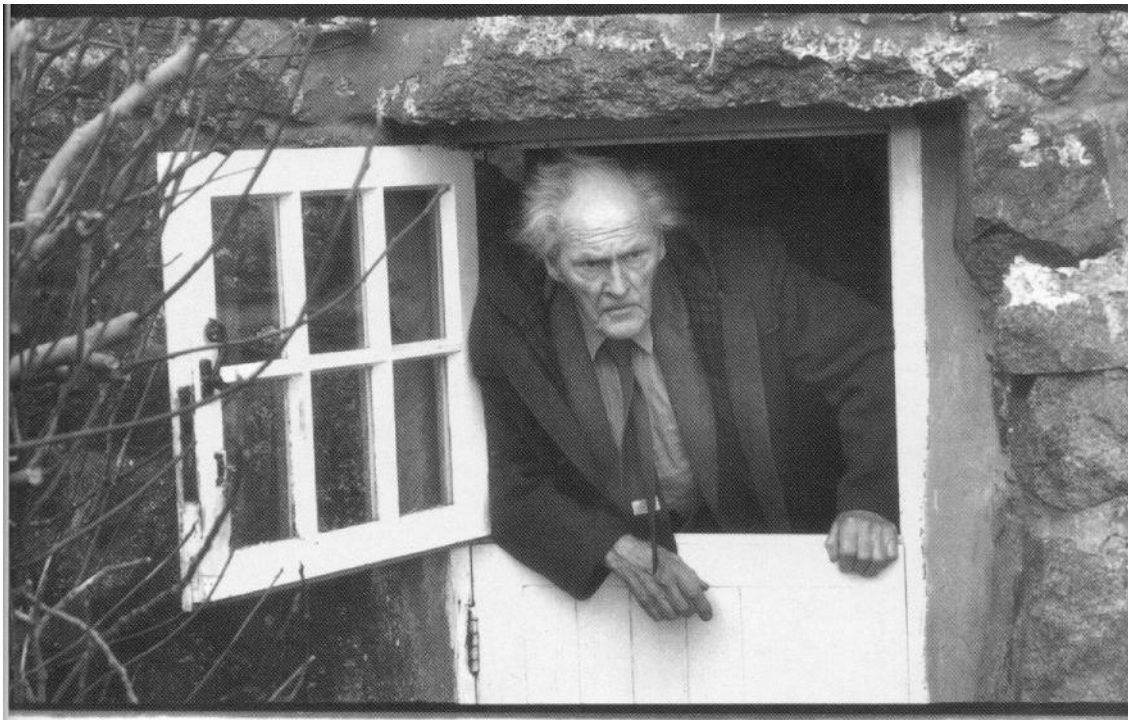
# ENGL 226 God and the Poets

## Christian Traditions in English Poetry

**Trimester 1 2010**

1 March to 4 July 2010

20 Points



### TRIMESTER DATES

Teaching dates:	1 March 2010 to 4 June 2010
Mid-trimester break:	5 April to 18 April 2010
Study week:	7 June to 11 June 2010
Last piece of assessment due:	14 June 2010

### WITHDRAWAL DATES

Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds.aspx>

**NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS**

Staff	Email	Phone	Room	Office Hours
Peter Whiteford	<a href="mailto:peter.whiteford@vuw.ac.nz">peter.whiteford@vuw.ac.nz</a>	463-6820	vZ801	Mon 9-10.30
Greg Martin	<a href="mailto:greg.martin@vuw.ac.nz">greg.martin@vuw.ac.nz</a>	463-9599	vZ907	tba

**CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS****Lectures**

<i>Days</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Room Number</i>
Mon, Tues, Thur	1610-1700	Hunter LT119

**Tutorials**

<i>Days</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Room Number</i>
Mon	3.10-4.00	KK 104
Tues	1.10-2.00	VZ 808
Thurs	1.10-2.00	VZ 802
Thurs	2.10-3.00	KK 105

**COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Additional information or notification of changes will be provided in lectures and tutorials and made available through the course Blackboard site. If you have a question or problem, you should consult the course co-ordinator.

**COURSE CONTENT**

This course explores the ways in which poets writing in English across ten centuries have written about, been influenced by, and responded to the central beliefs of Christianity. It will provide an overview of those central beliefs, and of their historical development, but the primary focus will be on the range and depth of the literary responses to Christianity. The course will also consider some prominent anthologies of religious or Christian verse in order to examine the principles governing their compilation.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

By the end of the course, you should:

- be familiar with all of the texts studied and responsive to the detail of individual works;  
[Assessment items 1 and 2]
- be familiar with the central beliefs and basic concepts of Christianity, and the ways in which they have been influential in English poetry;  
[Assessment items 2 and 3]
- be able to discuss a major text in a formal academic essay;  
[Assessment item 2]
- be able to conduct literary research on a given topic.  
[Assessment item 4]

**EXPECTED WORKLOAD**

For a 20 point course at 200-level, it is recommended that you spend on average 15 hours per week including class contact hours. Therefore, you should spend about 11 hours of your own time in reading and preparation. A more detailed description of workload is available on the Blackboard site.

**READINGS****Essential texts:**

There are only two texts required for the course: *God and the Poets. An Anthology of Christian Poetry* (Victoria University of Wellington, 2010), available from the Student Notes Centre; John Milton, *Paradise Lost*, ed. John Leonard (Penguin Classics, 2003). Other material may be distributed in class. You are free to use an alternative edition of *Paradise Lost*, but you should make sure it is a complete text, and preferably a recent scholarly edition that includes useful explanatory notes. Versions of the course anthology from earlier years are not suitable.

**Recommended Reading:**

Although the major focus of your attention will be the authors and works you are studying, you will also want to give some attention to secondary material, and I encourage you to do this—anything that helps you to think and increases your understanding is valuable. On the other hand, the secondary material must never become a substitute for your own thinking. Moreover, while much of the secondary material is excellent, some is very uneven in quality and other material may not offer a useful model for undergraduate writing. This caution applies in particular to material that is available online. You need to be very careful about assessing the scholarship and reliability of such material. A bibliography will be made available separately on the Blackboard site. This will offer advice about background readings in religious materials (Biblical, devotional, theological, and so on) as well as in literary materials.

**ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS**

This course is internally assessed, requiring four pieces of written work, the first and last of which are completed in class. Marking criteria will be made available with each assignment.

- 1 a short response to a poem by Gerard Manley Hopkins;  
length: 1000 words; value: 15%; due date: in-class 18 March
- 2 an essay on *Paradise Lost*  
length: 2000-2500 words; value: 35%; due date: 19 April
- 3 an in-class exercise;  
length: 1000 words value: 15% due date: in-class 3 June
- 4 a small research project  
length: 2000-2500 words; value: 35%; due date: 14 June

**N. B.** You should pay attention to the word lengths set here. You may be penalised for being significantly under or over length. Quotations from the text being discussed (i. e. the 'primary' text) do **not** count as part of your word count. Details about all of the assignments will be distributed separately and will be on the Blackboard site.

**ASSIGNMENT COVER SHEETS**

Assignment cover sheets and extension forms can be found on Blackboard or outside the Programme office. Remember to fill in your tutor's name.

**PENALTIES AND EXTENSIONS**

If work is handed in late, then one grade is subtracted and no comments are offered.

**Extensions**

Extensions will be granted only in exceptional and unforeseen circumstances. Issues of workload do not constitute exceptional and unforeseen circumstances. 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. Tutors cannot grant extensions.

**MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

To gain a pass in this course you must:

- Submit all the written work specified for this course, on or by the specified dates (subject to such provisions as are stated for late submission of work);
- Attend at least 8 tutorials.

**CLASS REPRESENTATIVES**

A class representative will be elected in the first week, and that person's name and contact details will be available to VUWSA, the Course Co-ordinator and the class. The class representative provides a communication channel to liaise with the Course Co-ordinator on behalf of students.

**STATEMENT ON LEGIBILITY**

You are expected to present work that meets appropriate standards. Work submitted during the course should be typed or prepared on a computer. Work completed in in-class exercises will obviously be handwritten. You are expected to write clearly. If work is deemed 'illegible', you will be given a photocopy of the work and asked to transcribe it to an acceptable standard (preferably typed) within a specified time frame.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PLAGIARISM**

Academic integrity means that university staff and students, in their teaching and learning are expected to treat others honestly, fairly and with respect at all times. It is not acceptable to mistreat academic, intellectual or creative work that has been done by other people by representing it as your own original work. Academic integrity is important because it is the core value on which the University's learning, teaching and research activities are based. Victoria University's reputation for academic integrity adds value to your qualification.

The University defines plagiarism as 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, you must acknowledge your sources fully and appropriately. This includes:

- Material from books, journals or any other printed source
- The work of other students or staff
- Information from the internet
- Software programs and other electronic material
- Designs and ideas
- The organisation or structuring of any such material

Find out more about plagiarism, how to avoid it, and penalties, on the University's website:  
<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

### **GENERAL UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND STATUTES**

You should familiarise yourself with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the Victoria University Calendar or go to the Academic Policy and Student Policy sections on: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy>

The AVC (Academic) website also provides information in a number of areas including Academic Grievances, Student and Staff conduct, Meeting the needs of students with impairments, and student support/VUWSA student advocates. This website can be accessed at:

[http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about\\_victoria/avcacademic/Publications.aspx](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcacademic/Publications.aspx)

### **CLASS SCHEDULE**

The following page provides a schedule for lectures and due dates for assessment items. The schedule is provisional: while I expect to keep to it pretty closely, it may be varied from time to time according to emerging interests. Note that there are no scheduled lectures on Monday and Tuesday of Week 7. Subject to discussions with the class, a film screening may be scheduled instead.

## ENGL 226: GOD AND THE POETS - CLASS SCHEDULE 2010

WEEK	Section A: Creation Songs				
1	March	Mon	1	Organisation and preliminaries; two poems	
		Tues	2	Dimensions of religion; the framework of Christianity	
		Thurs	4	The Bible as source	
2		Mon	8	God as artist/architect/composer	
		Tues	9	'Morning has broken'; Caedmon's hymn	
		Thurs	11	The human dimension in creation	
3		Mon	15	God – hidden or lost	
		Tues	16	Hopkins and the sacramental view of nature	
		Thurs	18	In-class test 1	15%
<b>Section B: Loss of Eden</b>					
4		Mon	22	Spring and Fall etc.; the problem of evil	
		Tues	23	Milton: introduction, the epic	
		Thurs	25	Milton and Satan	
5		Mon	29	Milton and God	
		Tues	30	Milton, Adam and Eve and the Garden	
		April Thurs	1	Milton, Book Nine and the Fall	
<b>MID-TRIMESTER BREAK (<i>Paradise Lost</i> essay due on return)</b>					<b>35%</b>
<b>Section C: The Life of Christ</b>					
6		Mon	19	Annunciation	
		Tues	20	Nativity	
		Thurs	22	Epiphanies and Transfigurations	
7		Mon	26	NO CLASS	
		Tues	27	NO CLASS	
		Thurs	29	Life of Christ	
8	May	Mon	3	Dream of the Rood	
		Tues	4	Langland	
		Thurs	6	Langland	
9		Mon	10	contemporary views of the Passion	
		Tues	11	Resurrection	
		Thurs	13	tba	
<b>Section D: Wrestling with God</b>					
10		Mon	17	Poetry and meditation	
		Tues	18	Donne	
		Thurs	20	Herbert	
11		Mon	24	Herbert	
		Tues	25	Hopkins	
		Thurs	27	R. S. Thomas	
12	June	Mon	31	James K Baxter	
		Tues	1	review	
		Thurs	3	in-class exercise	15%
<b>END OF COURSE <i>Research project due</i></b>					<b>35%</b>