

ENGL 308 RENAISSANCE LITERATURE

Trimester 2 2010

Monday 12 July to Saturday 13 November 2010

20 Points



Thomas Hobbes "Leviathan" (1651)

TRIMESTER DATES

Teaching dates:	Monday 12 July 2010 to Friday 15 October 2010
Mid-trimester break:	Monday 23 August to Sunday 5 September 2010
Study week:	Monday 18 October to Friday 22 October 2010
Examination/Assessment period:	Friday 22 October to Saturday 13 November 2010

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

NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS

Staff: Linda Hardy

Email: linda.hardy@vuw.ac.nz

Phone : 463 6806

Room: VZ 812

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Wednesdays 1-2.

CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Lectures: Monday & Friday 11.00 – 11.50 am **Room:** Hunter Lecture Theatre 119 (**HULT 119**)

Tutorials: Tuesday 11-12; Tuesday 3-4; Wednesday 12-1; Wednesday 3-4 (all in **VZ 808**). To be arranged in the first lecture. Further information will be available in lectures and on Blackboard.

COURSE PROGRAMME: LECTURE SCHEDULE

Week 1	12 July	Introduction	
	16 July	Princely courts: John Webster's <i>The Duchess of Malfi</i>	(1)
Week 2	19 July	<i>The Duchess of Malfi</i>	(2)
	23 July	<i>The Duchess of Malfi</i>	(3)
Week 3	26 July	Ethics and politics: Francis Bacon's "Of Simulation and Dissimulation"	
	30 July	The idea of a republic: Shakespeare's <i>Julius Caesar</i>	(1)
Week 4	2 August	<i>Julius Caesar</i>	(2)
	6 August	<i>Julius Caesar</i>	(3) [1 st assignment due]
Week 5	9 August	Republican heroism: Andrew Marvell's "An Horatian Ode"	
	13 Aug	A republic in Hell?: John Milton's <i>Paradise Lost</i> , Books 1 & 2	(1)
Week 6	16 Aug	Milton's <i>Paradise Lost</i>	(2)
	20 Aug	Milton's <i>Paradise Lost</i>	(3)
Mid Trimester Break:	Monday 23 August to Sunday 5 September 2010		
Week 7	6 Sept	Milton's <i>Paradise Lost</i>	(4)
	10 Sept	The wars of truth: Bacon "Of Truth" & Milton, from <i>Areopagitica</i>	
Week 8	13 Sept	Milton, <i>Areopagitica</i> (cont.)	[2 nd assignment due]
	17 Sept	The <i>Book of Judges</i> and Milton's <i>Samson Agonistes</i>	(1)
Week 9	20 Sept	Milton's <i>Samson Agonistes</i>	(2)
	24 Sept	Milton's <i>Samson Agonistes</i>	(3)
Week 10	27 Sept	Milton's <i>Samson Agonistes</i>	(4)
	1 Oct	Church, state and conscience: John Donne's "Satire 3" & Bacon's "Of Unity in Religion"	
Week 11	4 Oct	John Bunyan's <i>The Pilgrim's Progress</i>	(1)
	8 Oct	John Bunyan's <i>The Pilgrim's Progress</i>	(2)
Week 12	11 Oct	John Bunyan's <i>The Pilgrim's Progress</i>	(3)
	15 Oct	Conclusion	

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COURSE CONTENT

This course is about the literary culture of C17th (Stuart) England: the period from the end of the reign of Elizabeth I in 1603, through the Civil Wars of the 1640s culminating in the execution of Charles I and the establishment of an English Republic, to the restoration of monarchy in the 1660s and 1670s. It is based on a study of plays, poems and prose by John Webster, William Shakespeare, Francis Bacon, John Donne, Andrew Marvell, John Bunyan, and John Milton. The course explores this turbulent period in English literary and political history with a focus on the relationship between writing, culture and politics. Topics include tragedy and the politics of the court; the culture of classical republicanism; the culture of Puritan dissent. Issues of truth, integrity, conscience and free speech are in the foreground of much of this writing. The course examines Milton's biblical tragedy, *Samson Agonistes*, with its themes of violence and sacrifice, and the first two books of his epic poem, *Paradise Lost*, in the context of Milton's commitment to republican politics and as his deeply meditated responses to the failure of the 'English revolution'.

READINGS

Essential texts: (In order of study): John Webster, *The Duchess of Malfi*, ed. John Russell Brown (Revels); *Renaissance Literature Course Book* (Student Notes); William Shakespeare, *Julius Caesar* (Penguin); John Milton, *Paradise Lost* (Penguin); John Bunyan, *The Pilgrim's Progress* (Oxford World's Classics).

For the first two weeks of trimester all undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from the Memorial Theatre foyer, while postgraduate textbooks and student notes will be available from the top floor of vicbooks in the Student Union Building, Kelburn Campus. After week two all undergraduate textbooks will be sold from vicbooks and student notes from the Student Notes Distribution Centre on the ground floor of the Student Union Building.

Customers can order textbooks and student notes online at www.vicbooks.co.nz or can email an order or enquiry to enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz. Books can be couriered to customers or they can be picked up from nominated collection points at each campus. Customers will be contacted when they are available.

Opening hours are 8.00 am – 6.00 pm, Monday – Friday during term time (closing at 5.00 pm in the holidays). Phone: 463 5515.

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WITHDRAWAL DATES

Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at
<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds.aspx>

COURSE DELIVERY

Students are expected to attend one tutorial, and the two scheduled lectures, each week. Worksheets for each tutorial will be posted on Blackboard approximately one week prior to the class. You must bring these worksheets, your notes and the relevant set text(s) to the tutorial. Attendance at (at least) 8 of the 11 tutorials is a mandatory requirement of the course.

COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Tutorial lists and other information about this course will be posted on Blackboard. This will include the course outline, lecture announcements, assignment topics, tutorial worksheets and supplementary lecture materials and notes (n.b. these latter are **not** a substitute for attendance at lectures!).

LEARNING 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.

EXPECTED WORKLOAD

You should expect to spend, on average, about **12 hours per week** on work for this course (reading, note-taking, preparing for tutorials, drafting essays, etc.) in addition to time in class. The time commitment will be greatest in the weeks immediately prior to essay submission dates.

ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

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 complete both assignments as well as sit the examination in order to pass the course.**

Term Work (50%) There are **two** assessed pieces of written work. Topics will be circulated and posted on Blackboard.

- i) **Critical analysis.** 20 % of final grade. Length: 1500 words.
Due date: **Friday 6 August**
- ii) **Essay.** 30% of final grade. Length: 2500-3000 words.
Due date: **Monday 13 September**

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

The final exam will take place during the end-of-year examination period (22 October – 13 November). Course texts may be taken into the exam. Lecture and other notes are not permitted, though your texts may contain a moderate amount of annotation.

Section A (50% of examination): a choice of extracts from the set texts; you must write a commentary on two of these, placing each one in broader context(s) and identifying distinctive features of its style and form. Each commentary is worth 25% of the exam mark.

Section B (50% of examination): a choice of essay topics for which you must draw your principal evidence from your study of Milton's *Paradise Lost* (Books One and Two), Milton's *Samson Agonistes*, and Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*. You must answer one question.

ASSIGNMENT COVER SHEETS

Assignment cover sheets and extension forms can be found on Blackboard or outside the Programme office.

EXTENSIONS AND PENALTIES

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. Work that is submitted late without an extension is subject to penalties:

If work is handed in late, then one part grade is subtracted (e.g. "B" to "B-") and minimal comments are offered.

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

In order to satisfy the course requirements, you must:

- attend at least **70% of tutorials** (i.e., at least 8 of the 11 tutorials)
- complete both of the internally assessed assignments by the due date (or by the due date granted as an extension)
- sit the final **examination**.

CLASS REPRESENTATIVES

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

STATEMENT ON LEGIBILITY

You are expected to present work that meets appropriate standards. Work submitted during the course (i. e. work that is internally assessed) should be typed or prepared on a computer. Work submitted in the final examination will obviously be handwritten. You are expected to write clearly. Where 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 themselves 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/avcademic/Publications.aspx