

ENGL 308 RENAISSANCE LITERATURE

Trimester 1 2011

28 February to 2 July 2011

20 Points



Thomas Hobbes "Leviathan" (1651)

TRIMESTER DATES

Teaching dates: 28 February to 3 June 2011

Mid-trimester break: 18 April to 1 May 2011

Study week: 6 to 10 June 2011

Examination/Assessment period: 10 June to 2 July 2011

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.

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: Linda Hardy

Email: linda.hardy@vuw.ac.nz

Phone : 463 6806

Room: VZ 812

Office Hours: TBA

CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Lectures: Tuesday & Friday 10.00 – 10.50 am **Room:** 77 Fairlie Tce LT 306 **(FT77LT306)**

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 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!).

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'.

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 **13 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.

READINGS

All undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from the Memorial Theatre foyer from 7 February to 11 March 2011, 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 of the trimester all undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from vicbooks on Level 3 of the Student Union Building. 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. Books can be couriered to you or they can be picked up from the shop. You will be contacted when they are available.

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).

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.

- Critical analysis.** 20 % of final grade. Length: 1500 words.
Due date: **Monday 28 March**
- Essay.** 30% of final grade. Length: 2500-3000 words.
Due date: **Monday 2 May**

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 (Friday 10 June – Saturday 2 July). 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.

PENALTIES AND 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.

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.

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>

WHERE TO FIND MORE DETAILED INFORMATION

Find key dates, explanations of grades and other useful information at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study.

Find out how academic progress is monitored and how enrolment can be restricted at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress. Most statutes and policies are available at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy, except qualification statutes, which are available via the *Calendar* webpage at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/calendar.aspx (See Section C).

Other useful information for students may be found at the website of the Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Academic), at www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcacademic

School of English, Film, Theatre, & Media Studies
ENGLISH PROGRAMME COURSE OUTLINE: ENGL 308

COURSE PROGRAMME: LECTURE SCHEDULE 2011

Week 1	1 Mar 4 Mar	Introduction Princely courts: John Webster's <i>The Duchess of Malfi</i> (1)
Week 2	8 Mar 11 Mar	<i>The Duchess of Malfi</i> (2) <i>The Duchess of Malfi</i> (3)
Week 3	15 Mar 18 Mar	Ethics and politics: Francis Bacon's "Of Simulation and Dissimulation" The idea of a republic: Shakespeare's <i>Julius Caesar</i> (1)
Week 4	22 Mar 25 Mar	<i>Julius Caesar</i> (2) <i>Julius Caesar</i> (3) [1 st essay due Mon 28 Mar]
Week 5	29 Mar 1 Apr	Republican heroism: Andrew Marvell's "An Horatian Ode" A republic in Hell? John Milton's <i>Paradise Lost</i> , Books 1 & 2 (1)
Week 6	5 Apr 8 Apr	Milton's <i>Paradise Lost</i> (2) Milton's <i>Paradise Lost</i> (3)
Week 7	12 Apr 15 April	Milton's <i>Paradise Lost</i> (4) The wars of truth: Bacon "Of Truth" and "Of Unity in Religion"
		Mid-trimester break Monday 18 April to Sunday 1 May
Week 8	3 May 6 May	The wars of truth: Milton's <i>Areopagitica</i> [2 nd essay due Monday 2 May] The <i>Book of Judges</i> : Samson and Delilah
Week 9	10 May 13 May	Milton's <i>Samson Agonistes</i> (1) Milton's <i>Samson Agonistes</i> (2)
Week 10	17 May 20 May	Milton's <i>Samson Agonistes</i> (3) Church, state and conscience: John Donne's "Satire 3"
Week 11	24 May 27 May	John Bunyan's <i>The Pilgrim's Progress</i> (1) John Bunyan's <i>The Pilgrim's Progress</i> (2)
Week 12	31 May 3 June	John Bunyan's <i>The Pilgrim's Progress</i> (3) Conclusion
Study Week:	Monday 6 June to Friday 10 June 2011	
Examination Period:	Friday 10 June to Saturday 2 July 2011	