

ENGL 410 RENAISSANCE STUDIES: LITERATURE & CULTURAL POLITICS (MILTON)



Trimester 1 2010

1 March to 4 July 2010

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

Examination/Assessment period: 11 June to 4 July 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.

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

Coordinator: Linda Hardy (linda.hardy@vuw.ac.nz)

VZ 812 ext 6806 Office Hours: t.b.a.

CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Seminars

Tuesdays 10-12 Von Zedlitz 802

COURSE DELIVERY

This course will be taught through weekly seminars. You should 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 you are unable to attend a seminar, please contact me as soon as possible.

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.

COURSE CONTENT

A study of Milton's major poetry and prose, including *Paradise Lost*, *Paradise Regained* and *Samson Agonistes*, and his prose pamphlets *Areopagitica* and *The Tenure of Kings and Magistrates*. Students taking this course will be encouraged to think about the relationship of Milton's writing to the general political and cultural ferment of mid seventeenth century England, and to the (eventually thwarted) attempt to establish an English Republic and make a "true reformation" of church and state.

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. You should also have developed a good understanding of how to read both literary and polemical texts as complex responses to, and interpretations of, the historical worlds in which they are made.

EXPECTED WORKLOAD

The university expects that you should be able to devote at least **24 hours per week** to a one trimester paper in a full-time 4-paper graduate programme. (This estimate includes seminar attendance and preparation for seminars and essays.) Individual students will of course need to make their own judgements about the amount of time they must give to the course in order to maintain satisfactory progress.

READINGS

Essential texts:

John Milton, *The Major Works*, ed. Stephen Orgel and Jonathan Goldberg (Oxford World's Classics) is the prescribed edition, because it is inexpensive and it contains generous selections from Milton's prose as well as all his poetry in English. Other editions of Milton's writings are acceptable, and in some cases preferable.

Recommended Reading:

A bibliography containing recommendations for extra reading will be posted on the course Blackboard site. Some additional texts (including important critical essays) will be circulated in class. See also the introductory essays and bibliographies in:

- *The Cambridge Companion to Milton*. Ed. Dennis Danielson. 2nd edition. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999.
- *A Companion to Milton*. Ed Michael N. Corns. London: Blackwell, 2001.

These books will be placed on closed reserve in the VUW Library.

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. 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.

ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

Assessment is designed to meet the course objectives by testing your familiarity with Milton's writing and by asking you to read it as an engagement with, and interpretation of, secular and sacred histories.

- 1. 1st essay** due on or before Thursday 1 April, of approximately **2,000** words. **25% of final result.**
Topics to be circulated.
- 2. 2nd essay** due on or before Friday 14 May, of approximately **3,000** words. **35% of final result.**
Topics to be circulated.
- 3. Final examination (3 hours) 40% of final result.**

The final examination will take place during the mid-year examination period (Friday 11 June – Saturday 4 July). 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. It will consist of two sections:

Section A: you will be asked to write brief commentaries on several unidentified extracts from Milton's work. [40% of exam mark]

Section B: a choice of essay topics; you must write on **two** of these. [Each essay will be worth 30% of exam mark]

Note: Grades gained in individual [Honours] papers are always subordinate to the overall assessment made by the full group of examiners for the Honours programme as a whole.

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

Extensions

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. Extension requests must be submitted to the Course Coordinator.

The due dates for written work for this course can be negotiated in advance to fit in with your overall timetable. However, work handed in after the due date without permission from me will be penalised by the deduction of a part grade. Any work submitted after the due date may be graded without comment. All written work **MUST** be handed in by **Friday 4 June**; only in exceptional circumstances will permission to submit work later than this date be granted by the Head of School.

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

In addition to sitting the exam, and maintaining a satisfactory attendance at and participation in the seminars, you must complete and hand in, by the due dates, two written assignments.

A student who has obtained an overall mark of 50% or more, but failed to satisfy a mandatory requirement for a course, will receive a K (fail) grade, while a course mark less than 50% will result in the appropriate fail grade (D, E or F).

CLASS REPRESENTATIVES

A class representative will be elected in the first class, 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 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

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

COURSE PROGRAMME

Week 1	2 March	Introduction
Week 2	9 March	Becoming a poet <i>Lycidas</i>
Week 3	16 March	A Puritan masque? <i>Comus</i>
Week 4	23 March	Left hand writing <i>Areopagitica</i>
Week 5	30 March	Rebellion in Heaven <i>Paradise Lost</i> Books I and II; V and VI 1st essay due Thursday 1 April [Good Friday this week]
Mid Trimester Break:	Friday 2 April– Sunday 18 April 2010	
Week 6	20 April	Monarchy or republic? <i>The Tenure of Kings and Magistrates</i> & <i>The Ready and Easy Way to Establish a Free Commonwealth</i>
Week 7	27 April	The Fall. <i>Paradise Lost</i> Books III, IV, IX and X.
Week 8	4 May	Epic and History <i>Paradise Lost</i>
Week 9	11 May	The temptation of Christ <i>Paradise Regained</i> (1) 2nd essay due Friday 14 May
Week 10	18 May	Anti-epic <i>Paradise Regained</i> (2)
Week 11	25 May	The experience of defeat <i>Samson Agonistes</i> (1)
Week 12	1 June	Holy terrorism <i>Samson Agonistes</i> (2)
Study Week:	Monday 7 June to Friday 11 June 2010	
Examination Period:	Friday 11 June – Sunday 4 July 2010	