

ENGL 410: Renaissance Studies: Literature and Cultural Politics

Trimester 2 2016

11 July to 13 November 2016

30 Points



Eikon Basilike (1649)

IMPORTANT DATES

Teaching dates:	11 July to 16 October 2016
Mid-trimester break:	22 August to 4 September 2016
Study period:	17 – 20 October 2016
Examination/Assessment period:	21 October to 12 November 2016

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.

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

If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test in the last three weeks of teaching, or an examination, it may instead be possible to apply for an aegrotat (refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats).

CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Seminars

Mon	10.00-12.50	Von Zedlitz VZ808
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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 students should be able to:

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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 a credible attempt at the written assignments on or by the specified dates (subject to the provisions that are stated for late submission of work), in order to demonstrate that they have achieved CLOS 1-3.
- obtain at least 35% in the final exam, in order to demonstrate that they have achieved CLOs 1-2.

Any student who is concerned that they have been (or might be) unable to meet any of the MCRs because of exceptional personal circumstances, should contact the course coordinator as soon as possible.

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:

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	19 Aug 5pm
3	Research Paper 5000 words	30%	1,2,3	30 Sept 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 19 August (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 30 September (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 exam period 21 October to 12 November 2016. 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 **three** copies of each assignment:

- A hardcopy in the drop slot outside the administration office: von Zedlitz Level 8. Attach an assignment cover sheet or extension form to your assignment, found on Blackboard or outside the administration office.
- Submit your assignment to Turnitin, following the instructions provided in the "Assignments and Turnitin" section of Blackboard.
- Email your assignment as a MS Word file to english@vuw.ac.nz

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. To apply for an extension, email your Course Coordinator before the assignment is due. If granted, your Course Coordinator will inform you of the new due date. Tutors cannot grant extensions. **No assignment with or without an extension will be accepted after Friday 11 November 2016.**

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.

CLASS REPRESENTATIVE

The class representative provides a useful way to communicate feedback to the teaching staff during the course. A class representative will be selected at the first lecture of the course. Students may like to write the Class Rep's name and details in this box:

Class Rep name and contact details:

STUDENT FEEDBACK

Student feedback on this course has been extremely positive. I welcome feedback and comments at any time.

Student feedback on University courses may be found at

www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php.

In week six or seven of the trimester your class representative will be invited to a meeting with the Programme staff. In week five your class representative will ask the class for any feedback on this course to discuss at this meeting.

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*
- *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*
- *Special passes: refer to the Assessment Handbook, at www.victoria.ac.nz/documents/policy/staff-policy/assessment-handbook.pdf*
- *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*
- *Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian>*
- *Terms and conditions: www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract*
- *Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin*
- *University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure*
- *Victoria graduate profile: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile*
- *VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz*

COURSE PROGRAMME

Week 1	11 Jul	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" (see Blackboard) 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	18 Jul	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	25 Jul	Andrew Marvell (1) 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	1 Aug	Marvell (2) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Marvell, "Upon Appleton House"• 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	8 Aug	1649 / Alexander Turnbull Library session Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Milton, <i>Eikonoklastes</i>, Preface + Part I, in <i>Complete Prose Works of John Milton</i>, 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 15 Aug

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 19 August, 5pm

Mid Trimester Break: Monday 22 August to Sunday 4 September 2016

Week 7 5 Sep

***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 (Duke UP, 2006), pp. 243-64

Week 8 12 Sep

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 19 Sep

***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 26 Sep

***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 30 September 5pm

Week 11 3 Oct

***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 10 Oct

***Paradise Lost* (5): Sacred history**

- *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 Period: Monday 17 to Thursday 20 October 2016

Examination Period: Friday 21 October to Saturday 12 November 2016