Course Description

This course is designed to provide students with an overview of one of the most politically and religiously tempestuous periods of English literature and culture, roughly from the Reformation to the Civil War. We will read a variety of literary and paraliterary texts, in poetry and prose, concentrating above all on lyric poetry as a mirror of the intellectual and spiritual developments of the day.

Course Goals and Learning Outcomes

In this course you will learn terminology and techniques to help you describe and analyze Early Modern literature: its genres and forms; its resources for conveying subjectivity; its contextual placement in its own time, in the history of the academy and English poetry, and its value for our present-day thought and experience. In addition to essays, presentations and exams, students will undertake practical imitations of seventeenth-century poetic forms. Actually working in these forms provides one of the most active learning experiences there is, as students become familiar with the principles and protocols that Early Modern writers used to organize their information and experience.

Required Textbook

*The Longman Anthology of British Literature*, vol. 1B The Early Modern Period

Mark Breakdown

Participation 15% (5% for online)
Quiz (best 1 of 2; half-hour each) 10%
Biographical presentation, 7 minutes 10%
Creative portfolio (3 items) 15%
Research essay, 1500 words 20%
Group parliamentary presentation and preparation online 10%
Exam 20%

Notes on the Assignments

Participation

Participation means showing up for class, keeping up with readings, asking and answering questions, working seriously on in-class exercises, and conducting critique and discussion with your peer group on LEARN.
Quiz
Two 30-minute content-based quizzes will be given; the higher of your two marks counts for 10% of your grade.

Biographical Presentation
Every student must present a 7-minute overview of the life of a known early modern individual, in character or not, showing evidence of historical research.

Creative Portfolio
A creative portfolio with three pieces chosen by the student — from the various Early Modern genres and forms we imitate in class assignments — must be passed in at the end of course, worth 15% of the grade. Peer critiques and comments on these works in development will also form part of the online participation component of the final grade.

Research Essay
A 1500-word research essay that poses and answers a question about a single Early Modern work, accompanied by an MLA formatted bibliography of at least three items, is worth 20% of the grade and is due in week 11.

Group Presentation
Students will be divided into groups of 4 or 5, and each group will be assigned a party that played a role in the politics of the English civil war and parliament. It is the responsibility of the group to devise a 20-minute presentation, in whatever format, that tells the class as much as possible about the identity, strategy and goals of that historical group. Each student will receive an individual grade, based on performance in the final piece and contributions to group discussion and planning on LEARN.

Exam
A final exam of 2.5 hours, covering all course material, in essay format, will be given during exam period.

Course Schedule
This schedule may be updated or modified periodically on LEARN, with at least a week’s notice for new or changed readings.

Week 1: Overview: the period from Donne to Milton
Mon Sept 8: introduction to the course and the idea of imitation: the centrality of poetry
Wed Sept 10: Names/Dates/Genres: read the Introduction pp 627-50
Week 2: a brief history of courtly poetry

Mon Sept 15: Elizabethan sonneteers: Wyatt and Sidney pp 655-69 and 680-84; pp 702-04

Wed Sept 17: Jacobean sonneteers: Shakespeare pp 1203-08 and Wroth pp 1616-17

Week 3: religious lyric 1

Mon Sept 22: Donne, *Holy Sonnets* pp 1603-07

Wed Sept 24: Herrick p 1625

Week 4: religious lyric 2

Mon Sept 29: Herbert pp 1629-39

Wed Oct 1: Vaughan pp 1645-48 QUIZ #1

Week 5: *Paradise Lost*

Mon Oct 6: *Paradise Lost*, Book 1 pp 1727-48

Wed Oct 8: *Paradise Lost* Book 1 pp 1727-48 and some additional excerpts

Week 6: the new science 1

Mon Oct 13: THANKSGIVING


Week 7: the new science 2

Mon Oct 20: optics and microscopy: Antoni Van Leeuwenhoek, readings TBA; Ben Jonson, *Upon an Hour Glass* p 1071

Wed Oct 22: nature and naturalists: Margaret Cavendish, readings TBA
Week 8: explorations

Mon Oct 27: the New World and narratives of discovery; Hariot and Smith pp 1191-94

Wed Oct 29: bringing it home: the poetry of discovery; Donne, *Elegy 19* p 1602 QUIZ# 2

Week 9: parliamentary politics

Mon Nov 3: Roundheads and Royalists: *Perspectives: The Civil War* pp 1678-98

Wed Nov 5: group parliamentary presentations 1

Week 10: parliament back into poetry

Mon Nov 10: group parliamentary presentations 2

Wed Nov 12: poems about the Commonwealth and royalist responses: Milton, pp 1714-15; Katherine Philips p 1671; Gauden pp 1680-81

Week 11: metaphysical lyric

Mon Nov 17: 1500-word RESEARCH PAPERS DUE; class discussion of creative portfolios

Wed Nov 19: Marvell pp 1653-65

Week 12: why poetry explains everything

Mon Nov 24: CREATIVE PORTFOLIOS DUE; Donne versus Milton

Wed Nov 26: exam review

**Late Work**

Assignments must be handed in on time, in class on the due date, in hard copy. They may be submitted the day before in the English department drop box for date stamping the following day. Late work is penalized 10% (a letter grade) and will not be accepted after a week beyond the deadline.

**Information on Plagiarism Detection**

None.
Electronic Device Policy
None, except that they may not be used during exams.

Attendance Policy
Attendance is the student’s responsibility. If you don’t attend, you can’t participate and cannot receive that portion of the grade.

Institutional-required statements for undergraduate course outlines approved by Senate Undergraduate Council, April 14, 2009

Cross-listed course
Please note that a cross-listed course will count in all respective averages no matter under which rubric it has been taken. For example, a PHIL/PSCI cross-list will count in a Philosophy major average, even if the course was taken under the Political Science rubric.

Academic Integrity

Academic Integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 - Student Discipline.

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4.

Appeals: A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read Policy 72 - Student Appeals.

Other sources of information for students
Academic integrity (Arts) Academic Integrity Office (uWaterloo)

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities
Note for students with disabilities: The AccessAbility Services office, located in Needles Hall Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the AS office at the beginning of each academic term.