Studies in 17th century print culture, focusing on technologies of the self in prose writings and Milton's early poems and Paradise Lost. The bulk of the course will be given over to considering the mediations, in Milton's texts, of prophetic, poetic, political and autobiographical concerns.

TEXTS:

John Bunyan: Grace Abounding to the Chief of Sinners, ed. W.R.Owens (Penguin)
Dorothy Osborne: Letters to Sir William Temple, ed. Kenneth Parker (Penguin)

The following copies of the texts have been put on desk copy in Dana Porter. Note that these texts, except in the case of Milton, are different editions than those we will be using in class.

John Donne: Devotions Upon Emergent Occasions; together with Deaths Duel (BV 4831.D6)
John Bunyan: Grace Abounding to the Chief of Sinners, and the Pilgrims Progress (PR 3329. G1 1966)
Dorothy Osborne: Letters from Dorothy Osborne to Sir William Temple (DA 429.O8A3 1888a)

The Poems of John Milton ed. John Carey & Alastair Fowler (Longman) (PR 3551.C3 1972): this is a different text, but has extremely useful notes.

COURSEWORK:

Essay 1: Feb. 5 (30%)
Essay 2: March 12 (30%)
Final Exam (40%)

SCHEDULE:

Jan. 15: Donne: Devotions (99-137); Deaths Duell (310-326).
Jan. 22: Bunyan: Grace Abounding
Feb. 5: Milton (and for rest of term): On the Morning of Christ's Nativity (63); On Shakespear (93); Lycidas (158); Ad Patrem (164)
Feb. 12: Psalms 80-88 (213); Sonnet 15: "Fairfax, whose name in armes..." (227); Sonnet 16: "Cromwell, our cheif of men,..." (229);
Psalms 1-8 (231); Sonnet 18: "Avenge O Lord..." (241); Sonnet 21: "Cyriack, whose Grand sire..." (244); Sonnet 23: "Mee thought I saw..." (246).
Feb. 26, March 8, March 12, March 19, March 11, April 2: Paradise Lost.

IT IS NEVER TOO EARLY TO BEGIN READING PARADISE LOST

ESSAY 1:
In the English Renaissance, says Stephen Greenblatt in Renaissance Self-Fashioning, "there were both selves and a sense that they could be fashioned." By closely examining a few passages from Donne, Bunyan or Osborne (or any other prose writer, approved by me) show what kinds of selves your chosen author fashions in his/her texts and what rhetorical means they use to present those selves. You might consider such things as genre, audience, voice, habitual metaphors, and so on. (1500-2000 words)