ENGLISH 350B

- Seventeenth-Century Non-Dramatic Literature 2 -

Winter 1992

R. R. Dubinski

Course Outline

1. Francis Bacon. a) Preface to The Great Instauration, pp. 298-324.
   b) The Advancement of Learning, Book I, II (sel.), pp. 198-271
   d) Essays (selection)

2. Thomas Browne. Religio Medici

3. John Milton. a) Areopagitica
   b) Of Education
   c) Nativity Ode
   d) L'Allegro and Il Penseroso
   e) A Maske at Ludlow Castle (Comus)
   f) Lycidas
   g) Paradise Lost
   h) Paradise Regained
   i) Samson Agonistes

Texts


Assignments

1. One research essay on Milton about 10-15 pages long, worth 40% of the final grade.
2. One explication of short pieces of prose about 5-7 pages long, worth 20% of the final grade.
3. Final Examination two hours long, worth 40% of the final grade.
Other Information

1. **Instructor**
   a) Office - HH 258, Phone 885-1211, ext. 2121.
   b) Office Hours - 9:00 a.m.-4:30p.m. (or by appointment)
   c) Home Phone - 884-8395

2. **Rewrites.** A rewrite will be permitted for the first essay.

3. **Lates.** Unless acceptable reasons for delay are presented in advance, late essays will be penalized half a grade.

4. **Incompletes.** Incompletes will be permitted only by prior arrangement and for an agreed period of time. Thereafter, a grade based on the work actually completed will be submitted.

General Instructions for Preparing Assignments

1. The assigned topics provide you with a central theme or problem which is intended as a focus for your paper. Limit your analysis and discussion to the topic and avoid introducing peripheral or extraneous material into your essay that has little or no bearing on your topic.

2. You must support your analysis or interpretation with evidence from the text(s) in question. This may take the form of a direct quotation or a brief paraphrase or summary. However, try to avoid including summaries for their own sake or evidence that may be either peripheral or redundant.

3. Organize your essay carefully so that it has a central idea or argument and a coherent structure. Make sure that there are adequate transitions between the various paragraphs and sections of your essay and that it ends with a logical conclusion based on the evidence you have provided in support of your argument or thesis.

4. In topics requiring comparisons and contrasts, organize your essay around points of comparison and contrast rather than examining each work separately and then drawing some comparisons. This type of organization will help you to avoid repetition.

5. Write your essay in a style that is clear, precise and concise. You should use as few words as necessary to make your points clearly. Avoid loose and rambling sentences and exclude all redundancy and repetition. Avoid vagueness, ambiguity and awkwardness in expression. If a sentence seems awkward to you, rephrase it.
6. Before you start to write an essay, it is essential for you to do some
cconcentrated thinking about the issues rasied by the topic. I have found
ituseful making a list of what I call "random reflections" as a way of
surveying my thoughts on the subject. Once you have such a list, try to order
these reflections in some coherent manner. Make an outline of the main
divisions and subdivisions in your argument. Then, try to keep to your
outline as you compose the essay.

After you have completed a rough draft, I suggest you let it sit for a day or
two before beginning revisions. This is to allow for second thoughts and
reconsideration. In revising make sure that your points are well supported,
that there are adequate transitions between parts of your essay, and that the
essay has a firm conclusion. Finally, examine the essay for style. Remove all
verbiage, tighten and rephrase sentences, try to vary the syntactical structure
of your sentences, and especially avoid sentences that string together clauses
joined by the conjunction "and". Needless to say, you should insure that
your sentences are grammatically correct and that your spelling and
punctuation are accurate.

7. You are free to use whatever primary or secondary material you find helpful
in writing your essay. But, it is important that you try to assemble your own
insights and tentative conclusions before turning to the secondary material.
This will enable you to enter into dialogue with other critics and to intergrate
other views into your own. Be sure that you acknowledge any borrowings
from secondary sources.

8. I do not insist that your essays be typewritten, though I would prefer it. If
you turn in a hand-written essay, make it as legible as possible, and please
leave a good margin on the left side for comments.

9. For matters of form, I refer you to W.K. Thomas's *Correct Form in Essay
Writing*. You are expected to follow this manual for such matters as the
correct form for quoting from a text, for footnoting, and for bibliographies.
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ESSAY I

Write a brief comparative analysis of the two passages from Bacon and Browne. In your essay consider some of the following items:

1. Analyze the style (rhetorical structure) of the prose used by each author and suggest the relation of the style to the subject matter.

2. Analyze the character projected by the speaker or persona.

3. Analyze the author's attitude to the subject.

4. Analyze the author's attitude to the reader (i.e. what is his design on the reader).

Bacon, Essay II "Of Death" (p. 49)
Browne on death, Religio Medici, I, Sect. 38-44

Length: about 5-7 pages typewritten