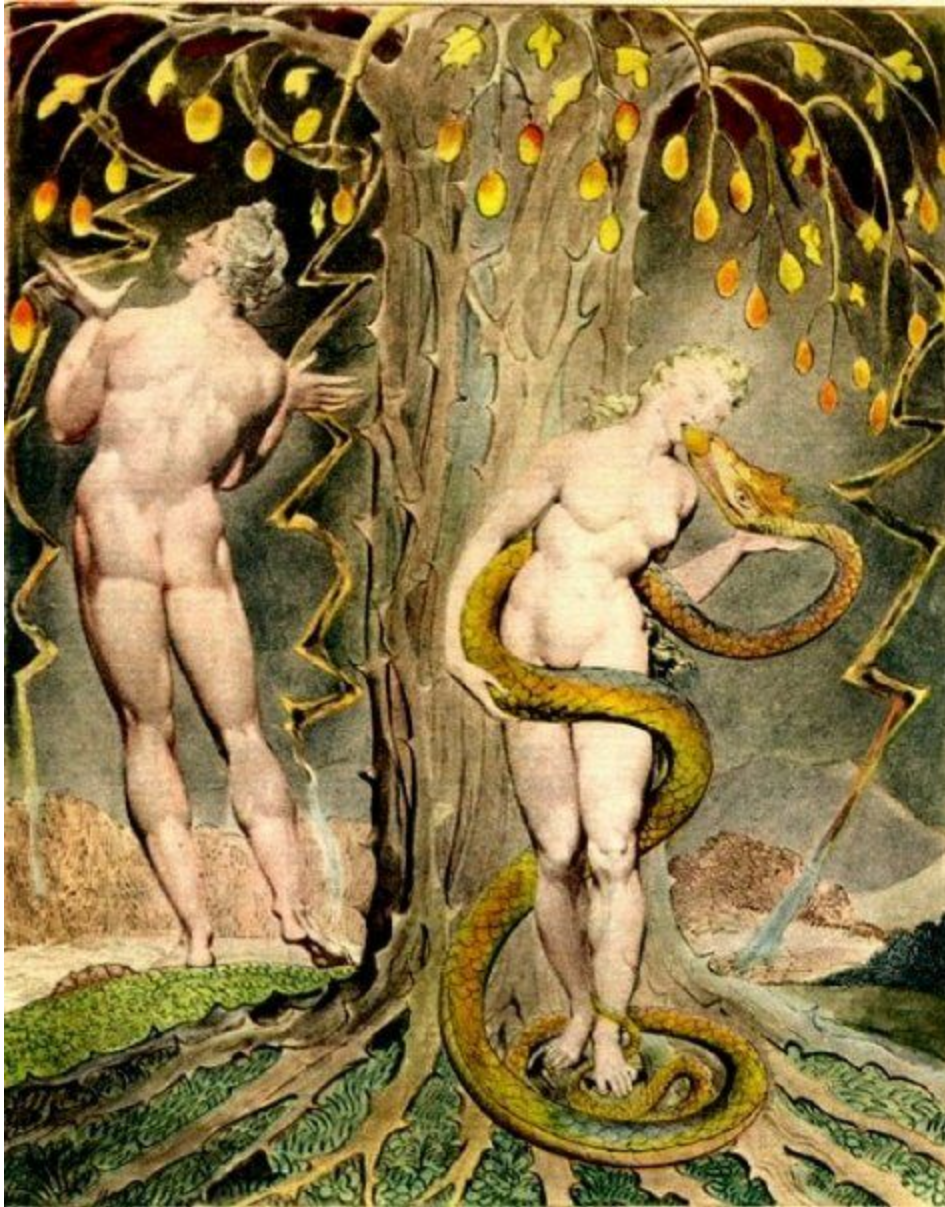


EL 202
Renaissance Rebels



Dr. Ethan Guagliardo
Tuesday 11:00-11:50, EF 06 Friday 15:00-16:50, M 1152
Spring 2017

Course Description

The word “Renaissance” conjures up images of revolution, of overthrowing the old and ushering in the new. This period sees the discovery of the New World, the rise of literary humanism, and the Protestant revolt against Roman Catholicism. But the concept of the “Renaissance” was for the most part an invention of the 18th and 19th centuries. In fact, 16th- and 17th-century Europe was broadly continuous with the “Middle Ages”. The people were no less plague-ridden, and monarchs no less powerful; piety was never more fervent, and superstition never more terrible (more witches were burned during this time than any other). And yet something was changing: it’s not for nothing that it’s called the “early modern” period. In this course, we will explore the continuities and discontinuities that compose the Renaissance / early modern world through the figure of the rebel. Did rebels think of themselves as rebels? What do we make of the sympathy for the devil, rakes, and other rogues we find in the plays and poems of the period? Was revolution oriented toward “the new”, or was it rather nostalgic, a return to an imagined past of purity and justice? Along the way, we will think about the differences between such related concepts as revolution, radicalism, treason, and of course rebellion.

Grades

Participation: 15%
Quizzes: 10%
Short papers: 30%
Midterm: 20%
Final: 25%

Week 1:

Tues, Feb. 7th Introduction
Fri., Feb. 10th Martin Luther, from *The Freedom of a Christian*; Montaigne, “Of Repentance”.

Week 2

Tues, Feb. 14th Christopher Marlowe, *Doctor Faustus*
Fri, Feb. 17th Christopher Marlowe, *Doctor Faustus*

Week 3

Tues, Feb. 21st Christopher Marlowe, *Doctor Faustus*
Fri, Feb. 24th Edmund Spenser, The Levelling Giant, from *The Faerie Queene*. **Paper 1 Due Monday Feb. 27.**

Week 4

Tues, Feb. 28th Thomas Middleton, *The Revenger’s Tragedy*
Fri, Mar. 3rd Middleton, *The Revenger’s Tragedy*

Week 5

Tues, Mar. 7th Middleton, *The Revenger’s Tragedy*
Fri, Mar. 10th Middleton, *The Revenger’s Tragedy*. **Paper 2 Due Monday Mar. 13th.**

Week 6

Tues, Mar. 14th

Fri, Mar. 17th

John Donne, from *Songs and Sonnets*

John Donne, from *Songs and Sonnets*

Week 7

Tues, Mar. 21st

Fri, Mar. 24th

John Ford, *'Tis Pity She's a Whore*

John Ford, *'Tis Pity She's a Whore*

Week 8

Tues, Mar. 28th

Fri, Mar. 31st

John Ford, *'Tis Pity She's a Whore*

MIDTERM

Week 9

Tues, Apr. 4th

Fri, Apr. 7th

John Ford, *'Tis Pity She's a Whore*

Levellers and Diggers: selections from the writings of Gerrard Winstanley.

Paper 3 due Monday April 10.

Week 10

Tues, Apr. 11th

Fri, Apr. 14th

Milton, *Paradise Lost*, Book 1.

Milton, *Paradise Lost*, Book 1-2.

Spring Break

Week 11

Tues, Apr. 25th

Fri, Apr. 28th

Milton, *Paradise Lost*, Book 2-3.1-343.

Milton, *Paradise Lost*, Book 4.

Week 12

Tues, May 2nd

Fri, May 5th

Milton, *Paradise Lost*, Books 5-6.

Milton, *Paradise Lost*, Book 8-9.

Week 13

Tues, May 9th

Fri, May 12th

Milton, *Paradise Lost*, Book 9.

Milton, *Paradise Lost*, Book 10; 12.574-end. **Paper 4 due Monday May 15.**