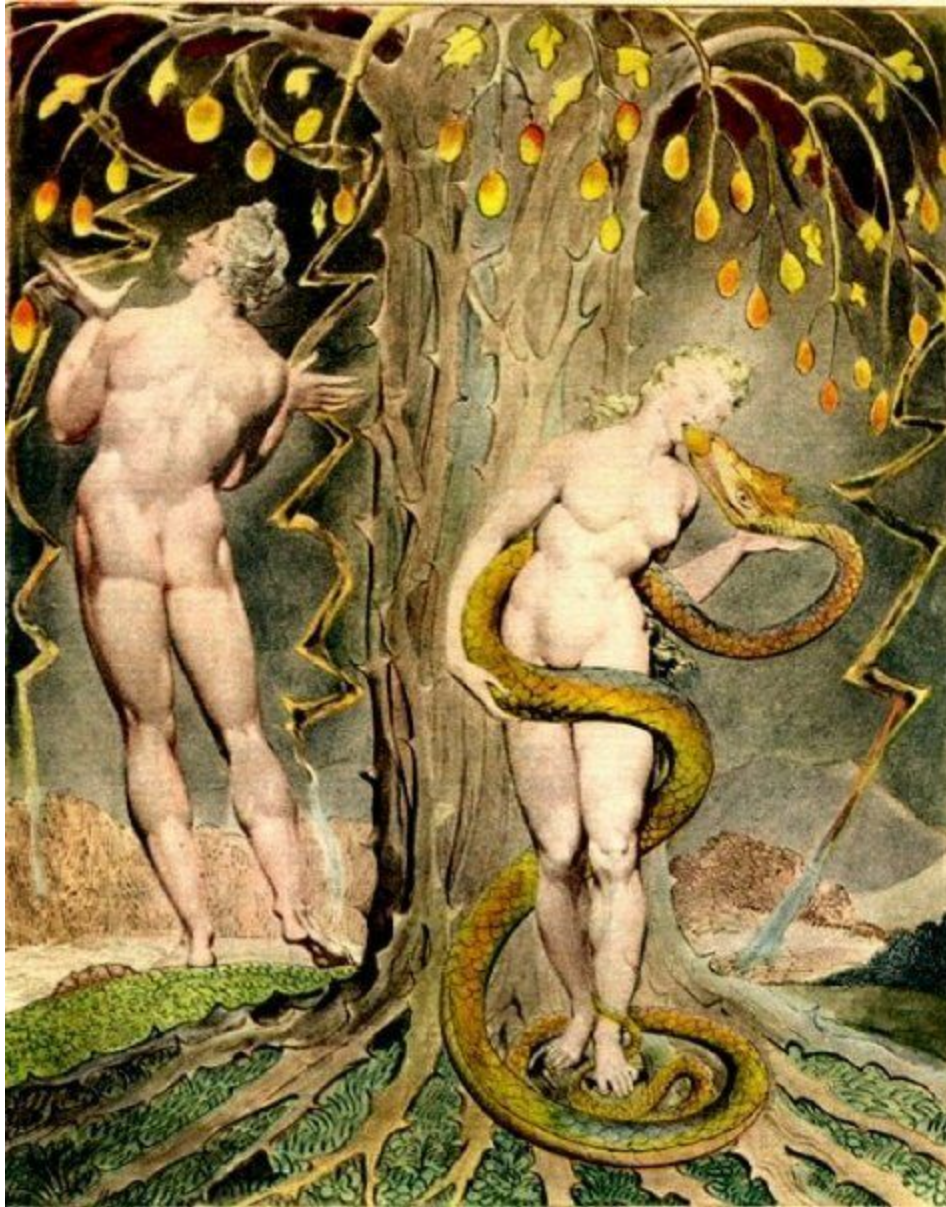


EL 202
Renaissance Rebels



Dr. Ethan Guagliardo
Monday 11:00-11:50, JF 108 Wednesday 11:00-12:50, TB 240
Spring 2018

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”--along with that of the “Medieval”--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 surely changing, enough that scholars today usually describe the “Renaissance” as the “early modern” period. In this course, we will explore the continuities and discontinuities that compose the early modern world through the figure of the rebel. Did rebels think of themselves as rebels? Do early modern plays and poems have sympathy for the devil and his fellow-travellers, the rakes, rogues, and libertines of the period? If the early modern period can be described as a period of “revolutions”, were these revolutions oriented toward the new, or were they rather nostalgic, seeking a return to an imagined past?

Grade Breakdown

Participation: 15%
Short papers: 40%
Midterm: 20%
Final: 25%

Grade Descriptions

Participation: Students are required to participate in this class--that includes showing up, offering opinions, and completing all assignments.
Short papers: 4 pages each, please follow prompts. Some papers will require you to make use of the EEBO-TCP database. Link available on website.
Midterm/Final: There are no quizzes in this class. Exams will test reading knowledge.

Texts

Course Packet (available at library copy center)
John Milton, *Paradise Lost* (available at bookstore_

Week 1:

Monday, Feb. 5 th	Introduction
Wed., Feb. 7 th	Martin Luther, from <i>The Freedom of a Christian</i> . “The Art of Disagreeing Badly” (web).

Recommended readings: Richard Strier, “Martin Luther and the Real Presence in Nature”

Week 2

Monday, Feb. 12 th	Christopher Marlowe, <i>Doctor Faustus</i>
Wed, Feb. 14 th	Christopher Marlowe, <i>Doctor Faustus</i>

Recommended Readings: Leah Marcus, "Marlowe's Magic Books", in *Marlowe in Context*; Stephen Greenblatt, *Renaissance Self-Fashioning*, chapter 5.

Week 3

Monday, Feb. 19th

Christopher Marlowe, *Doctor Faustus*

Wed, Feb. 21st

Edmund Spenser, The Bower of Bliss, from *The Faerie Queene*.

Paper 1 Due Friday Feb. 22nd.

Week 4

Monday, Feb. 26th

Thomas Middleton, *The Revenger's Tragedy*

Wed, Feb. 28th

Middleton, *The Revenger's Tragedy*

Week 5

Monday, Mar. 5th

Middleton, *The Revenger's Tragedy*

Wed, Mar. 7th

Middleton, *The Revenger's Tragedy*

Week 6

Monday, Mar. 12th

John Donne, from *Songs and Sonnets*

Wed, Mar. 14th

John Donne, from *Songs and Sonnets*

Recommended reading: Jonathan Post, "Irremediably Donne", from *English Lyric Poetry: The Early Seventeenth Century*.

Paper 2 Due Friday Mar. 16th.

Week 7

Monday, Mar. 19th

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

Wed, Mar. 21st

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

Recommended reading: Bruce Bohrer, "Nice Philosophy": "'Tis Pity She's a Whore and the Two Books of God," *Studies in English Literature, 1500-1900* 24 (1984): 355-371

Week 8

Monday, Mar. 26th

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

Wed, Mar. 28th

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

Week 9

Monday, Apr. 2nd

Milton, *Paradise Lost*, Book 1.

Wed, Apr. 4th

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

Paper 3 due Friday April 6th.

Week 10

Monday, Apr. 9th Milton, *Paradise Lost*, Book 2.
Wed, Apr. 11th Milton, *Paradise Lost*, Book 2-3.

Recommended reading: David Quint, *Inside Paradise Lost*.

Spring Break

Week 11
Monday, Apr. 23rd Milton, *Paradise Lost*, Books 3-4.
Wed, Apr. 25th Milton, *Paradise Lost*, Books 4-6.

Recommended reading: Gordon Teskey, *Delirious Milton*.

Week 12
Monday, Apr. 30th Milton, *Paradise Lost*, Book 8.
Wed, May 2nd Milton, *Paradise Lost*, Book 8-9.

Week 13
Monday, May 7th Milton, *Paradise Lost*, Book 9.
Wed, May 9th Milton, *Paradise Lost*, Book 10; 12.574-end.

**Paper 4 due Wednesday May 9th.
Final Exam TBA**