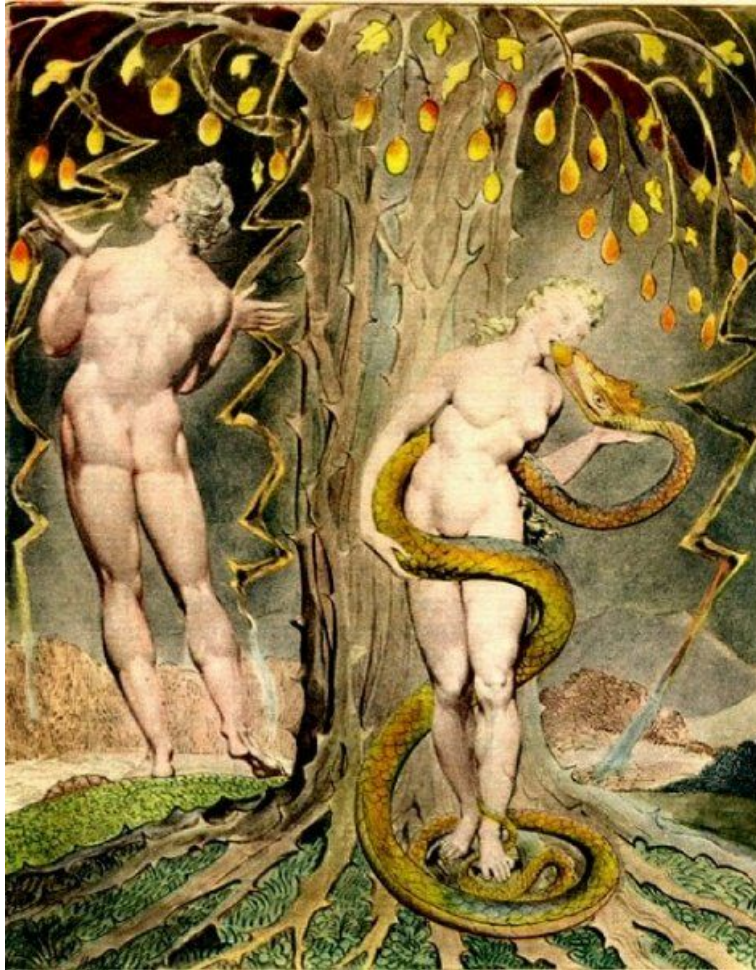


EL 202

Renaissance Rebels



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MMW 565 | TB 415

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: 45%
Midterm: 20%
Final: 20%

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.
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, Feb. 10

Monday Introduction, Martin Luther, from *The Freedom of a Christian*
Wed Martin Luther, from *The Freedom of a Christian*

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

Week 2, Feb. 17

Monday Christopher Marlowe, *Doctor Faustus*, read first half
Wed Christopher Marlowe, *Doctor Faustus*, read second half

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

Week 3, Feb. 24

Monday Christopher Marlowe, *Doctor Faustus*
Wed Thomas Middleton, *The Revengers Tragedy*, Acts 1-2

Week 4, March 2

Monday Thomas Middleton, *The Revengers Tragedy*, Acts 3-4
Wed Middleton, *The Revengers Tragedy*, Act 5

Week 5, March 9

Monday Middleton, continued. Christopher Marlowe, “*De amica, quae periuraverat*,” from *All Ovid’s Elegies*; John Donne, “The Good-Morrow”; “the Sunne Rising”; “The Indifferent”; “Love’s Infiniteness”; “Air and Angels”; “Community”; “Love’s Growth”; “A Nocturnal upon St. Lucy’s Day”; “The Bait”; “A Valediction Forbidding Mourning”; “The Relic”; “The Dissolution”; “Confined Love”
Wed Donne, continued.

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

Paper 1 Due Friday Feb. 29th.

Week 6, March 16

Monday Donne, continued. Aemilia Lanyer, from *Salve Deus Rex Judaeorum*
 Wed Lanyer, continued. Lady Mary Wroth, "Sonnet 14"; "Sonnet 48"

Note: This week will have to be rescheduled, as I will be attending the Renaissance Society of America Conference in Toronto.

Week 7, March 23

Monday Robert Herrick, "The Vine"; "Delight in Disorder"; "Upon Julia's Clothes"; "To the Virgins, to Make Much of Time"; Sir John Suckling, "Against Fruition"
 Wed George Herbert, "The Altar"; "Affliction (I)"; "Jordan (I)"; "Affliction (II)"; "The Church Floor"; "Vanity (I)"; "Jordan (II)"; "The Collar"; "The Pulley"; "A Wreath"

MIDTERM EXAM**Week 8, March 30**

Monday Herbert, continued. Gerrard Winstanley, "The Digger's Song"
 Wed Milton, *Paradise Lost*, Book 1.

Week 9, April 6

Monday Milton, *Paradise Lost*, Book 1-2.
 Wed Milton, *Paradise Lost*, Books 2-3.

Paper 2 due Friday April 12th.**Week 10, April 13**

Monday Milton, *Paradise Lost*, Book 2-4.
 Wed Milton, *Paradise Lost*, Books 3-4.

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

Spring Break**Week 11, April 27**

Monday, Milton, *Paradise Lost*, Books 4-6.
 Wed Milton, *Paradise Lost*, Books 8. (Optional: Book 7)

Recommended reading: from Gordon Teskey, *Delirious Milton*.

Week 12, May 4

Monday Milton, *Paradise Lost*, Book 8-9.
 Wed Milton, *Paradise Lost*, Book 9-10.

Week 13, May 11

Monday Milton, *Paradise Lost*, Book 9-10.
 Wed Milton, *Paradise Lost*, Book 10; 12.574-end.

Paper 3 due Wednesday May 15th.

Final Exam TBA