

English 3305 Fall 2012 Ann Christensen

English Renaissance Literature: Texts and Contexts

This course places a set of literary texts written in the 16th and 17th centuries in England within theoretical contexts that were important to people of the time and that continue to resonate (if differently) with us, 21st century readers in the U.S. These contexts will include ideas of order, belief, place, and self. For example a unit on 'writing about place' will feature pastoral poetry, More's *Utopia*, and travel literature, inviting analysis of how writers envisioned nature, urbanity, the land, and the nation in an increasingly globalized world. We will read a variety of literary genres, such as prose fiction and non-fiction, pastoral and devotional poetry, epic, and sonnets; and secondary material such as literary criticism and history.

The course will have an online component. The formal requirements include posts to the discussion board, short reading quizzes, 3 writing exercises/ blogs, one paper, and a final project.

Major authors and works will likely include:

(* means that I have ordered these editions from the UH Barnes and Noble Bookstore; other readings will be available via Blackboard)

- * Thomas More, *Utopia*
- Ben Jonson, selected poems
- Ameilia Lanyer, selected poems
- Andrew Marvell, selected poems
- Edmund Spenser, selections from *The Faerie Queen* or *The Shepheardes Calendar*
- * John Milton, *Paradise Lost*
- * Aphra Behn, *Oroonoko*
- John Donne, Holy Sonnets

*Required texts:

Behn, Aphra, Catherine Gallagher, and Simon Stern. *Oroonoko, Or, the Royal Slave*. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2000.

Milton, John, and Gordon Teskey. *Paradise Lost: Authoritative Text, Sources and Backgrounds, Criticism*. New York: W.W. Norton, 2005.

More, Thomas and George M. Logan. *Utopia*. New York: W.W. Norton, 2011.