

**ENU 11004**  
**Early Modern Literature – Themes, Texts and Contexts: 1500–1660**

**5 ECTS**

**Michaelmas Term 2024**

**Coordinators:** Dr. Mark Sweetnam ([mark.sweetnam@tcd.ie](mailto:mark.sweetnam@tcd.ie)), Dr. Ema Vyroubalová (vyroubae@tcd)

**Assessment:** 1 Essay, 1,500-2,000 words

**Lectures:** Live lectures in Weeks 1-4 and 6-10; pre-recorded lecture to watch in your own time Week 5

**Tutorials:** Week 3-10 (no tutorials in Week 5)

**NB:** tutorials are mandatory for all students enrolled in the module!

**Learning Outcomes:**

On successful completion of this module, students will:

- Develop an understanding of the range of literary genres written, read, and performed in early modern England, with a focus on the different modes of production and dissemination of various types of texts
- Become conscious of the shaping impact of major historical events and socio-political developments on the texts covered
- Be able to identify a variety of intertextual connections between the different writers and writings covered on the module
- Be alert to the changes undergone by the English language across the c.160-year period covered by the module
- Be able to apply the knowledge gained from the texts and lectures to the interpretation of other early modern texts as well as texts from other historical periods

**Module Description:**

This module provides an introduction to early modern English literature and the social, cultural, and intellectual contexts that shaped it. It begins with an introductory lecture, outlining the chronology of the period and the major themes that will be addressed in the following weeks – the concept of renaissance, the Protestant reformation, the discovery of the so-called New World, and the English revolution. The course covers a range of genres, from across the whole period of 1500-1660, and features a number of lectures on major canonical authors combined with broader thematic concerns, which trace the development of early modern literature.

**Assessment:**

1 Essay of 1,500-2,000 words, for due date consult Fresher (or Visiting Student) handbook; topics will be available on Blackboard by the end of Week 4.

**Module Outline:**

<b>Wk 1</b>	<p><b>Introduction: MS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Alister E. McGrath, <i>The Intellectual Origins of the European Reformation</i> (Blackwell, 2004)</li><li>• Susan Brigden, <i>New Worlds, Lost Worlds: The Rule of the Tudors, 1485-1603</i> (Penguin, 2001)</li></ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mark Kischlansky, <i>A Monarchy Transformed: Britain 1603-1714</i> (Penguin, 1997)</li> </ul>
<b>Prose</b>	
Wk 2	<p><b>New World: More, Utopia and Bacon, New Atlantis: MS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Primary text: Susan Bruce (ed.), <i>Three Early Modern Utopias Thomas More: Utopia / Francis Bacon: New Atlantis / Henry Neville: The Isle of Pines</i> Oxford World Classics (Oxford U.P., 2008)</li> <li>Andrew Hadfield, <i>Literature, Travel, and Colonial Writing in the English Renaissance, 1545-1625</i>, (Oxford U.P., 2007)</li> <li>George M. Logan (ed.), <i>The Cambridge Companion to Thomas More</i>, (Cambridge: Cambridge U.P., 2011) esp. Dominic Baker-Smith, 'Reading <i>Utopia</i>', pp. 141–167.</li> <li>Jeffrey Knapp, <i>An Empire Nowhere: England, America, and Literature from Utopia to The Tempest</i>, (Berkeley: U of California Press, 1992)</li> </ul>
<b>Poetry</b>	
Wk 3	<p><b>The Sonnet: Wyatt, Sidney, Spenser, Shakespeare, Wroth: MS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A handout with a range of primary texts will be available on Blackboard.</li> <li>Arthur F. Marotti, "'Love is Not Love": Elizabethan Sonnet Sequences and the Social Order', <i>ELH</i> Vol. 49, No. 2 (Summer, 1982), pp. 396-428.</li> <li>John Fuller, <i>The Sonnet</i>, (Routledge, 2017)</li> </ul>
Wk 4	<p><b>Spenser, Faerie Queen Book 1: EV</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Primary text: Thomas P. Roache, Jr. (ed.), Penguin Classics (Penguin, 2003)</li> <li>Patricia Parker, <i>Inescapable Romance: Studies in the Poetics of a Mode</i>, Chapter 2: Spenser, pp 54-113 (Princeton U.P, 1979) also available via Princeton Legacy Library reprint.</li> <li>Judith Anderson, <i>Spenser's Narrative Figuration of Women in the Faerie Queene</i> (Medieval Institute Publications, 2018)</li> <li>William Oram, 'Spenser's Audiences, 1598-91', <i>Studies in Philology</i> Vol. 100, No. 4 (Autumn, 2003), pp. 514-533 (on BB)</li> <li>Andrew Weiner, "'Fierce Warres and Faithfull Loues": Pattern as Structure in Book I of <i>The Faerie Queene</i>', <i>Huntington Library Quarterly</i> Vol 37, No 1 (Nov. 1973), 33-57 (on BB)</li> </ul>
<b>Drama</b>	
Wk 5 Reading Week Pre- recorded lecture	<p><b>Marlowe, Doctor Faustus: EV</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Primary text: recommended edition Paul Menzer (ed.), <i>The Alchemist</i> (New Mermaids, 2018); other available critical editions (Norton, Oxford) are fine too</li> <li>Rebecca Lemon, 'Scholarly Addiction: Doctor Faustus and the Drama of Devotion', <i>Renaissance Quarterly</i> Vol. 69, Issue 3 (Autumn 2016), 865-898 (on BB)</li> <li>Jane Hwang Degenhardt, 'The Reformation, Inter-imperial World History, and Marlowe's <i>Doctor Faustus</i>', <i>PMLA</i> Vol. 130, Issue 2 (March 2015), pp. 402-411 (on BB)</li> </ul>
Wk 6	<p><b>Shakespeare, Hamlet: Prof. Andrew Murphy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Primary Text: Single Honours students can use the Norton Shakespeare edition already recommended for the JF Shakespeare module; recommended single play editions: G.R. Hibbard (ed.), <i>Hamlet</i>, Oxford Shakespeare (OUP, 2008) or Robert Miola (ed.), <i>Hamlet</i>, Norton Critical Editions (Norton, 2019)</li> <li>Zackariah C. Long, 'The Spanish Tragedy and Hamlet: Infernal Memory in English Renaissance Revenge Tragedy', <i>English Literary Renaissance</i> 44:2 (May 2014): 153-92.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Curtis Perry, 'Seneca and the Modernity of <i>Hamlet</i>', <i>Illinois Classical Studies</i> 40:2 (Fall 2015): 407-29.</li> </ul>
Wk 7	<p><b>Jonson, <i>The Alchemist</i>: EV</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Primary Text: recommended edition Elizabeth Cook (ed.), <i>The Alchemist</i> (New Mermaids, 2010); other available critical editions (Norton, Oxford) are fine too</li> <li>• Ian Donaldson, <i>Jonson's Magic Houses</i> (Clarendon, 1997)</li> <li>• Christopher Foley, "'Breathe Less, and Farther Off": The Hazardous Proximity of Other Bodies in Jonson's <i>The Alchemist</i>', <i>Studies in Philology</i> Vol. 115, Issue 3, (2018), 505-523 (on BB)</li> <li>• Anthony Ellis, 'Senescence in Jonson's <i>Alchemist</i>: Magic, Mortality, and the Debasement of (the Golden) Age', <i>Ben Jonson Journal</i> Vol. 12 (2005), pp. 23-44</li> </ul>
<b>Milton</b>	
Wk 8	<p><b>Milton, <i>Paradise Lost</i>, Book 1: MS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Primary text: any good edition is fine. The Dartmouth edition by Thomas Luxton is a reliable and well-annotated online version. (<a href="https://www.dartmouth.edu/~milton/reading_room/pl/book_1/text.shtml">https://www.dartmouth.edu/~milton/reading_room/pl/book_1/text.shtml</a>)</li> <li>• C.S. Lewis, <i>An Preface to Paradise Lost</i>. The 1942 OUP edition is available online at <a href="https://archive.org/details/in.ernet.dli.2015.187688">https://archive.org/details/in.ernet.dli.2015.187688</a>.</li> </ul>
<b>Voices from the Margins</b>	
Wk 9	<p><b>John Bunyan, <i>Pilgrim's Progress</i>: MS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Primary Text: Any good edition is fine. The Oxford World Classics edition, edited by W.R. Owens is readily available and reliable.</li> <li>• Stanley E. Fish, 'Progress in <i>The Pilgrim's Progress</i>', <i>English Literary Renaissance</i>, 1:3 (Autumn 1971): 261–293.</li> <li>• Brenda Machosky, 'Trope and Truth in <i>The Pilgrim's Progress</i>', <i>Studies in English Literature, 1500-1900</i>, Vol. 47, No. 1, <i>The English Renaissance</i> (Winter, 2007), pp. 179-198.</li> <li>• Roger Sharrock, 'Spiritual Autobiography in <i>The Pilgrim's Progress</i>' <i>The Review of English Studies</i>, Vol. 24, No. 94 (Apr., 1948), pp. 102-120</li> </ul>
Wk 10	<p><b>Cavendish, <i>The Blazing World</i> and selected poetry: EV</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Primary Text 1: ed. Kate Lilley, <i>The Blazing World and Other Writings</i> (Penguin, 2004)</li> <li>• Primary Text 2: Poems: 'Of the Ant', 'The Hunting of the Hare', 'A World Made by Atoms' (to be posted to BB)</li> <li>• Sujata Iyengar, 'Royalist, Romancer, Racialist: Rank, Race and Gender in the Science and Fiction of Margaret Cavendish', <i>English Literary History</i> Vol. 69, No. 3 (2002), pp. 649-72</li> <li>• Rosemary Kegl, "'The World I Have Made": Margaret Cavendish, Feminism and <i>The Blazing World</i>', in <i>Feminist Readings of Early Modern Culture</i>, eds. Valerie Traub, Lindsay Kaplan and Dymphna Callaghan (Cambridge UP, 1996)</li> <li>• Bronwen Price, 'Feminine Modes of Knowing and Scientific Enquiry: Margaret Cavendish's Poetry as a Case Study', in <i>Women and Literature in Britain 1500-1700</i>, ed. Helen Wilcox (Cambridge UP, 1996)</li> </ul>