

University of Puerto Rico  
Río Piedras Campus  
College of Humanities  
Department of English  
English 4000, Seventeenth-Century British Literature

Dr. Mark A. Pedreira

Fall term, 2017

Office: Edificio Pedreira, Rm. 2A

Office hours: Monday & Wednesday 1:30-2:20 p.m., and by appointment

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**Description:**

This class introduces students to the literature of the seventeenth century with emphasis on major trends and the major writers including Donne, Jonson, Bacon, Butler, Rochester, Dryden, and Milton.

**Course Objectives:**

By the end of the course, students will:

1. Have read and understood the poetry and prose readings from seventeenth century.
2. Be able to analyze and critically examine these readings.
3. Be able to write answers to essay questions about these readings, both on quizzes and on examinations.

**Texts:**

*The Norton Anthology of English Literature. Vol. 1.* Ninth Edition. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2012. **ISBN-13: 978-0393913002**

NORTON WEB SITE: Our anthology, *The Norton Anthology of English Literature (Volume 1)*, has a web site that supplements this text, which is available (with a special code & available password) for students who purchase a new copy of the text. (See the material—both codes and instructions for online use—included in your purchased copy of *The Norton Anthology of English Literature (Volume 1)*).

**Teaching Strategies:**

My teaching strategies include close reading and critical analysis of the poetry and prose in the seventeenth century. This approach, of course, is possible only if students read all of the material for every class.

### Methods of Evaluation:

- Examinations: Midterm Examination & Final Examination (40% each = 80%).
- Short papers (20%).

### Requirements to obtain a Passing Grade:

To pass the class (with a grade of *D* or higher), students must take both the **MIDTERM & FINAL EXAMINATIONS**, as well as complete all of the written assignments (i.e., **short essays**).

Students must also **read all of the assigned works** in *The Norton Anthology of English Literature* (Volume 1).

- **FAILURE** to meet **all of these requirements** will result in a **failing grade** (i.e., D or F).

**LEY 51:** “Los estudiantes que reciban servicios de Rehabilitación Vocacional deben comunicarse con el(la) profesor(a) al inicio del semestre para planificar el acomodo razonable y equipo asistivo necesario conforme a las recomendaciones de la Oficina de Asuntos para las Personas con Impedimentos (OAPI) del Decanato de Estudiantes. También aquellos estudiantes con necesidades especiales que requieren de algún tipo de asistencia o acomodo deben comunicarse con el(la) profesor(a).”

### Plagiarism & Academic Dishonesty:

You are strongly advised to familiarize yourself with the nature of plagiarism (consult the relevant university guidelines, and ask me for more information if necessary). Be aware that any kind of academic dishonesty may result in a failing grade (i.e., *F*), as well as institutional disciplinary action.

### Attendance:

The UPR expects students to attend class regularly and to come to class on time. In this class, failure to do so will severely affect a student's final grade.

Therefore, **missing 3 classes (or more)**—without a certified medical excuse—will result in a low **grade** (i.e., *D* or *F*); and missing **5 classes**, or more, may result in a **failing grade** (i.e., *F*).

### Excused Medical Absences:

If you are sick, get an official note from your physician. If your illness is more than a couple of days, contact me (via email) concerning your situation (period of illness & how to contact you: phone#, etc.).

## **Electronic Devices:**

Students should refrain from texting or from making and taking phone calls during class. No exceptions.

## **SCHEDULE:**

\* NOTE: This *schedule* is *subject to revision*, given the needs of the class and exigencies of the university academic calendar.

### OCTOBER

10/30 Mon. Open discussion

### NOVEMBER

11/1 Wed. John Donne, *Songs and Sonnets*: “The Flea”; Song (“Go and catch a falling star”); “The Indifferent”; “A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning”; “Elegy 19. To His Mistress Going to Bed”

11/6 Mon. John Donne, *Songs and Sonnets*: “The Flea”; Song (“Go and catch a falling star”); “The Indifferent”; “A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning”; “Elegy 19. To His Mistress Going to Bed”

11/8 Wed. George Herbert, *The Temple* (select poems: “The Altar”; “Easter”; “Prayer (I)”; “Jordan” (I); “The Windows”: “Virtue”; “Man”; “The Collar”

11/13 Mon. George Herbert, select poems

11/15 Wed. Sir Francis Bacon, *Essays* (read all of Bacon’s *Essays* in the *Norton Anthology*)

11/20 Mon. Francis Bacon, select essays

11/22 Wed. Ben Jonson, “To Penshurst” & “Song: To Celia” in *The Forest*

11/27 Mon. Ben Jonson, select poems (read all of Jonson’s elegies)

11/29 Wed. EXAMINATION

### DECEMBER

12/4 Mon. John Milton, *Paradise Lost*, Bk. 1

12/6 Wed. Milton, *Paradise Lost*, Bk. 1

12/11 Mon. Milton, *Paradise Lost*, Bk. 2

- 12/13 Wed. Milton, *Paradise Lost*, Bk. 2
- 12/18 Mon. Milton, *Paradise Lost*, Bk. 9
- 12/20 Wed. Milton, *Paradise Lost*, Bk. 9
- 12/27 Wed. Behn, *Oroonoko, or the Royal Slave*

## JANUARY

- 1/3 Wed. Behn, *Oroonoko, or the Royal Slave*
- 1/8 Mon. Behn, *Oroonoko, or the Royal Slave*
- 1/10 Wed. John Wilmot, Second Earl of Rochester, "A Satire Against Reason and Mankind"
- 1/15 Mon. Rochester, "The Disabled Debauchee" & "The Imperfect Enjoyment"
- 1/17 Wed. Samuel Butler, *Hudibras*, Part 1, Canto 1 (read the excerpt in *The Norton Anthology* and supplement it with an online version: t.b.a. in class)
- 1/22 Mon. Butler, *Hudibras*, Part 1, Canto 1 & excerpts from Butler's *Characters & Prose Observations* (t.b.a. in class)
- 1/24 Wed. John Dryden, "Mac Flecknoe"
- 1/29 Mon. Dryden, "Absalom and Achitophel: A Poem"; read selections from *The King James Bible, 2 Samuel* (t.b.a.)
- 1/31 Wed. Dryden, "Absalom and Achitophel: A Poem"

## FEBRUARY

- 2/5 Mon. Dryden, "Absalom and Achitophel: A Poem"
- 2/7 Wed. Dryden, "Criticism" (read all the excerpts in the *Norton*)
- 2/12 Mon. John Bunyan, *Pilgrim's Progress*
- 2/14 Wed. John Bunyan, *Pilgrim's Progress*
- 2/19 Mon. Final business

## Select Bibliography

- Eliot, T.S. *The Varieties of Metaphysical Poetry*. Edited by Ronald Schuchard. New York: Harcourt Brace, 1994.
- “Internet Library of Early Journals: A digital library of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Century journals.” <http://www.bodley.ox.ac.uk/ilej/> . Current, January, 2016.
- Johnson, Samuel. 2006. “Life of Butler.” In *The Lives of the Poets*. Vol. 2. Edited by Roger Lonsdale. 4 vols. Oxford: Clarendon Press.
- May, James E. “Recent Sources for 18th-Century Studies: Bibliographical Tools.” <http://www.personal.psu.edu/special/C18/maytools.htm>. 23 April, 1999.
- Parker, Blanford. *The Triumph of Augustan Poetics: English Literary Culture from Butler to Johnson*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1998.
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- Terry, Richard. *Mock-heroic from Butler to Cowper: An English Genre and Discourse*. Aldershot: Ashgate, 2005.
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- Weinbrot, Howard D. *Britannia’s Issue: The Rise of British Literature from Dryden to Ossian*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1993.
- Wilding, Michael. “The Last of the Epics; the Rejection of the Heroic in *Hudibras* and *Paradise Lost*.” In *Dragon’s Teeth: Literature in the English Revolution*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1987.
- Woolley, James. Finding English Verse, 1650-1800: *First-Line Indexes and Searchable Electronic Texts*. <http://www.bibsocamer.org/BibSite/Woolley/index.pdf>. January, 2016.