CC 201, Fall 1993 Humanities III Core Curriculum
The Renaissance
Syllabus

Lectures: T, 12:30-2:00, SED 130

Core Professors
Christopher Martin (English)
Dennis Costa (Modern Foreign Languages and Literature)
Aryeh Motzkin (Philosophy)
Alan Smith (Modern Foreign Languages and Literature)

Seminar Times: TR 11:00-12:30 pm, Professor Martin, CLA 412
TR 9:30-11:00 am, Professor Costa, SMG 326
MWF 1:00-2:00 pm, Professor Smith, SMG B20
MWF 2:00-3:00 pm, Professor Motzkin, SMG 237

Books: The books you should purchase and read are available at the Boston University Bookstore. The last page of this syllabus provides a list of these books and of the handouts which will be provided.

Grading: Final grades will be determined by the student's seminar instructor. The grade will be based on a combination of written work, examinations, and participation, as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seminar Papers</td>
<td>55%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-term Exam</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance and Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
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Attendance at lectures and seminar discussions is an important part of the course. More than two unexcused absences from seminar, or more than one unexcused absence from lecture will result in the attendance grade being lowered one grade unit (from “A” to “A-,” “A-” to B+,” etc.) for each unexcused absence thereafter.

Exams will cover materials in the lectures, seminars, and the readings. They will include objective, short essay, and long essay questions. Choices will be offered.
Course Description: The third semester of the Humanities Core continues our interdisciplinary survey with some of the most significant literary and philosophical works in Western culture—those of "the Renaissance," an era in which the foundations of the modern world were laid. Our attention now shifts to the early fourteenth century in Europe; and the semester will carry us through the late seventeenth century.

Our themes include the rise of individualism; skepticism; the war between the ancients and the moderns; the struggle to distinguish appearance from reality and to bridge the gap between subject and object; the foundations of the modern scientific enterprise; the rise of secularism and the distancing of the divine; the sense of mankind as master rather than servant of nature; the invention of new artistic forms; and the new unfolding of the ancient quarrel between poetry and philosophy.

This period also includes the first great flowering of English poetry. We will study some of the best of it—The Pearl Poet, Chaucer's General Prologue, Shakespeare's Sonnets, the lyrics of John Donne, and Milton's Paradise Lost. We will study these works in terms of their contribution to Western and world culture, but we will also want to know why reading poetry is different from reading prose, and how it is different: what special problems it poses and what particular rewards it offers to the careful reader—rewards suggested by Wallace Stevens in "An Ordinary Evening in New Haven":

As if
In the end, in the whole psychology, the self,
The town, the weather, in a causal litter,
Together, said words of the world are the life of the world.

The semester concludes with John Milton, a somewhat Baroque example of a Renaissance man: a polemicist in a time of civil war and ideological struggle; a poet-prophet who saw himself in the shadow of Shakespeare and Spenser, in the tradition of Homer and Vergil, and as an inspired interpreter of the Bible; a man well aware of the skeptical and scientific currents of his time, taking up the Bible's myth of origins and fall; a man who believed that a good education began with languages, proceeded through mathematics, agriculture, geography, philosophy, architecture, anatomy; medicine, ethics, economics, politics, law, and history and culminated, at least for the chosen few, in poetic composition. Milton sought a language adequate to "justify the ways of God to men," and believed that all his learning was at the service of divine inspiration; his poem came from God, and had to be written as it was. Within his soul the battle between humanism and protestantism was waged—most dramatically with the figures of Milton's heroic Satan and Eve, mother of all mankind.

Beyond the themes and historical developments charted by the course lies something even more important: the greatness of each of the individual works we will be reading. What this greatness is, why these works instead of others still have the power to engage us in conversation with the creative intellects of the past (a past which therefore includes us!)—these questions will be of primary concern, just as they are central to all of the courses in the Core Curriculum.
CC 201 Lecture Series and Reading Assignments
Lectures Tuesday, 12:30-2:00, SED 130

Tuesday, 9/7/93:  Romance and Realism: The Pearl Poet and Geoffrey Chaucer (1340?-1400)

Readings from Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, tr. Borroff, and
Chaucer's Canterbury Tales, tr. Wright:

Pearl Poet, "Sir Gawain and the Green Knight";
Chaucer, "General Prologue," pp. 1-22;

Lecture (1): Professor Martin

Tuesday, 9/14/93: The End of the Middle Ages: Geoffrey Chaucer (1340?-1400)

Readings from Chaucer's Canterbury Tales, tr. Wright:

"Pardoner's Prologue and Tale," pp. 394-410;
"Wife of Bath's Prologue and Tale," pp. 219-250;
"The Author's Valediction," p. 464

Lecture (2): Professor Martin

Tuesday, 9/21/93:  Man, the Being Between Worlds: Petrarch (1304-1374) and Pico (1463-1494)

Readings from Cassirer, The Renaissance Philosophy of Man:
Francesco Petrarca, "The Ascent of Mount Ventoux," pp. 36-46;
Giovanni Pico Della Mirandola, "Oration on the Dignity of Man," pp. 223-54

Lecture (3): Professor Costa
Tuesday, 9/28/93:  
*Man Powerless, Man Empowered: Calvin (1509-1564) and Machiavelli (1469-1527)*

Readings from Calvin and Machiavelli:

- from John Calvin’s *Institute of the Christian Religion* (sourcebook);
- from Niccolo Machiavelli, *The Prince*: I-III; V; VIII-X; XIV-XVIII; XIX, first four paragraphs (through “I conclude, ... “); XXI; XXII, first paragraph; XXV-XXVI.

**Lecture (4): Professors Motzkin and Jorgensen**

Tuesday, 10/5/93:  
*The Great Skeptic: Montaigne (1533-1592)*

Reading: From Michel de Montaigne’s *Essays*, tr. Frame:
- “To the Reader,” p. 3;
- from the “Apology for Raymond Sebonde,” pp. 51-71;
- “Of Repentance,” pp. 75-91;
- “Of Husbanding Your Will,” pp. 92-100;
- “Of Experience,” pp. 106-36;
- “Of Cannibals” (sourcebook)

**Lecture (5): Professor Jackson**

XX., x/xx/93,  
7 p.m.,  
room xxxx:  *Art of the Renaissance*

Reading: None

**Lecture (6): Professor Miller**
Tuesday, 10/12/93:  *Jousts with Reality I: Cervantes (1547-1616), Don Quixote*

Reading: From Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra, *Don Quixote Part I*:

*Chivalry revived:*
Prologue, pp. 25-30;
Don Quixote’s first expedition and the beginning of his second:
   chs. 1-10, pp. 31-84;
   pp. 84-7 of ch. 11 (through “Don Quixote devoted more time to”)

*Eros and enchantment:*
   pp. 107-111 of ch. 14 (from “And he was going to read another”) Note: .
   D.Q. is at funeral of a young man who died for love of the young, rich, 
   beautiful Marcela who, to escape her suitors, has been living disguised as a 
   shepherdess. Mourners read the dead youth’s poems. And then, suddenly . . .
   chs. 15-18, pp. 111-141;

*Liberation and retreat:
   ch. 22, pp. 171-81;
   pp. 181-183 of ch. 23 (through “he would not have given a halfpenny for
   any other adventure”)

*A message from Dulcinea:*
   ch. 25, pp. 199-214;
   pp. 26708 of ch. 30 (from “While they were engaged in this conversation”)
   ch. 31, pp. 268-76

**MONDAY SCHEDULE. NO LECTURE.**

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Tuesday, 10/19/93:  *Jousts with Reality II: Cervantes (1547-1616), Don Quixote*

Reading: from *Don Quixote, Parts I and II*:

*Return from the second expedition:*
   pp. 415-418 of ch. 46 (from “Two days had now passed”)
   chs. 47-52, pp. 418-458

*The third expedition sets out:*
   chs. 1-3, pp. 471-492;

*The final return:*
   pp. 888-891 of ch. 64 (from “Now one morning Don Quixote was riding”)
   chs. 65-74, pp. 891-940.
Note: D. Q. has come to Barcelona in order to foil a “lying history” which 
says he is in Saragossa. A Duke and Duchess have been mocking D.Q. and 
Sancho by pretending to take them seriously and by staging “adventures,” 
including Sancho’s governorship of an island and a “vision” in which Death 
announces that Dulcinea can only be freed from enchantment if Sancho “shall 
deal himself 3,300/Lashes upon his most ample buttocks.”

**Lecture (7): Professor Smith**
Tuesday, 10/26/93:  *The eldest have borne most: Shakespeare (1564-1616), King Lear*

Reading: William Shakespeare, *King Lear*

**Lecture (8): Professor Carroll**

Tuesday, 11/2/93:  *Renaissance Poetry: Shakespeare’s sonnets*

Reading: William Shakespare, Sonnets 1, 55, 116, 130, 138, 144.

**Lecture (9): Professor Martin**

Tuesday, 11/9/93:  *Renaissance Poetry: John Donne (1572-1631)*

Reading: from the poetry of John Donne:

“Song” (“Go and catch a falling star”), pp. 1-2;
“The Indifferent,” pp. 8-9;
“A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning,” pp. 34-5;
“The Ecstasy,” pp. 35-8;
“A Nocturnal Upon Saint Lucy’s Day,” pp. 39-41;
“The Relic,” pp. 50-1;
“Elegy XIX: To His Mistress Going to Bed,” pp. 64-5;
Holy Sonnets: 1, p. 100; 7-10, pp. 102-3; 14, pp. 104-5.

**Lecture (10): Professor Fitzgerald**

Thursday, 11/11/93, 7 p.m.,
in The Castle:  *The Music of Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)*

Reading: None.
Listening: Music of Bach.

**Lecture (11): Professor Johnson**
Tuesday, 11/16/93:  *Renaissance Philosophy. Francis Bacon (1561-1626)*

Reading: from Sir Francis Bacon, ed. Jerry Weinberger

*The Great Instauration*, pp. 1-32;
*The New Atlantis*, pp. 35-83

Lecture (12) Professor Motzkin

Tuesday, 11/23/93:  *Renaissance Philosophy Rene Descartes (1596-1650)*

Reading: from Rene Descartes, tr. Lafleur

*Discourse on Method* Parts I-4, pp. 3-30;

Lecture (13) Professor Devlin

Thanksgiving Holiday, 11/24-11/28

Tuesday, 11/30/93:  *Renaissance Philosophy: Spinoza (1632-1677)*

Reading: from Baruch Spinoza’s *Ethics*, tr. Shirley:

Part I: God
Appendix, pp. 57-62;

Part III: Emotion
Preface, pp. 102-3;
props. 6-26, pp. 108-118;
Definitions of the Emotions, pp. 141-51;

Part IV: Of Human Bondage
Appendix, pp. 195-200;

Part V: Intellect and Freedom
Preface, pp. 201-3;
prop. 3, entire, p. 204;
props. 4-30, pp. 204-216, propositions only, except all of prop. 20;
props. 35-40, entire, pp. 218-222.

Lecture (14) Professor Devlin
Tuesday, 12/7/93:  *Milton (1608-1674), Paradise Lost*

Reading: From Ricks, ed., John Milton’s *Paradise Lost*

“The Verse,” p. 45;

Book I entire, pp. 49-69 (Introduction, fall of the angels, construction of Pandaemonium)

Book II entire, pp. 69-98 (Counsel of the fallen angels, Satan’s explorations and meeting with Sin and Death);

Book III, Argument, pp. 98-9; ll. 1-371, pp. 99-109 (God foresees the fall of man, the Son offers himself as a ransom for man);

Book IV, Argument, pp. 119-20; ll. 1-843, pp. 120-143 (Satan in Paradise; Adam and Eve introduced; Satan caught whispering in Eve’s ear while she is dreaming).

**Lecture (15) Professor Ricks**

Tuesday, 12/14/93:  *Milton (1608-1674), Paradise Lost*

Reading: From John Milton’s *Paradise Lost:*

Book V, Argument, p. 149;

Book VI, Argument, p. 174;

Book VII, Argument, p. 199; ll. 1-39, pp. 199-200 (Concerning the Muses and the Spirit);

Book VIII, Argument, p. 217; ll. 249-653, pp. 224-234 (Adam tells the angel Raphael his memories of his first moments and of the creation of Eve);

Book IX, entire, pp. 235-267 (The Fall);

Book X, Argument, pp. 267-8; ll. 383-584, pp. 279-283; ll. 720-1003, pp. 287-297 (Satan’s return to Hell; Adam curses his fall and is reconciled with Eve);

Book XI, Argument, p. 298;


**Lecture (16): Professor Jorgensen**

Tuesday, 12/14/93:  NO CLASS. STUDY PERIOD BEGINS
CC 201 Core Humanities II Reading List
Fall 1993

The Pearl Poet, Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, tr. Boroff

Geoffrey Chaucer, The Canterbury Tales, tr. Wright

Francesco Petrarch, “The Ascent of Mount Ventoux”
Giovanni Pico della Mirandola, “Oration on the Dignity of Man”
in Ernst Cassirer, The Renaissance Philosophy of Man

John Calvin, Institute of the Christian Religion
(sourcebook)

Niccolo Machiavelli, The Prince, tr. Mansfield

Michel de Montaigne, Selections from the Essays of Montaigne, tr. Donald Frame

Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra, Don Quixote, tr. Cohen

William Shakespeare, King Lear

William Shakespeare, The Sonnets
(New York: Signet), ISBN: 0-451-51795-4

John Donne, Selected Poems, ed. Shaaber

Sir Francis Bacon, New Atlantis and The Great Instauration, ed. Weinberger

Rene Descartes, Discourse on Method and Meditations, tr. Lafluer

Baruch Spinoza, Ethics, tr. Shirley

John Milton, Paradise Lost and Paradise Regained, ed. Ricks