

English 5970 (110) Fall 2011

Scarlet Letters:

Puritanism and Anglo-American Literary Culture

W 4-6:20, Brown 4003

CRN 41644

Contact Information

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General Course Description

Team-taught by specialists in British (Dr. Bradburn) and American (Dr. Slawinski) seventeenth-century literature, this course offers graduate and advanced undergraduate students an opportunity to read alongside each other texts that are traditionally taught in separate courses: the travel narratives, poetry, sermons, novels, autobiographies and other kinds of writing that Puritans on both side of the Atlantic produced.

Graduate students may use this course to fill either of two distribution requirements: American Literature before 1865 or Renaissance Literature.

Undergraduate students may count this class as either an American or British survey.

Course Goals

Knowledge and understanding of:

Puritan theology and doctrine, its convergence and diversity

The rise, dominance, and fall of Puritanism in England and the New England colonies

The major historical and literary events influenced by Puritanism

The Puritan sense of nation, community, and family

Some continuities and divergences between English and early American literary histories

The importance of genre to Puritan writers

The Puritan interest in rhetoric/verbal performance in texts

Some origins of the novel in English

Philosophical questions addressed by Puritan and later writers

Puritan attitudes toward and interaction with Others (e.g., Natives, Non-Puritans, non-English, sinners, witches)

The Puritan attitude toward the natural world
 The reaction against Puritan ideas and ideology
 Some critical issues in the study of Puritan writings

Ability to:

Construct a working definition of Puritanism
 Speak and write about early modern texts using conventional scholarly discourse
 Lead and participate in intellectually productive discussion
 Evaluate secondary literature on early modern texts
 Develop, research, express and document a sustained argument about Puritan texts and contexts

Textbooks

The following textbooks are available for purchase at the WMU Bookstore:

Shakespeare, William. *Twelfth Night*. Oxford World’s Classics, 2008.
 Bradford, William. *Of Plymouth Plantation*. Modern Library College Edition, 1981.
 Shepard, Thomas. *God’s Plot*. UMass, 1994.
 Vaughan, Alden T. and Edward W. Clark, eds. *Puritans Among the Indians*.
 Belknap/Harvard, 1986.
 Milton, John. *Paradise Lost*. Penguin, 2003.
 Bunyan, John. *The Pilgrim’s Progress and Grace Abounding to the Chief of Sinners*.
 Vintage, 2004.
 Defoe, Daniel. *Robinson Crusoe*. Penguin, 2003.
 Edwards, Jonathan. *The Jonathan Edwards Reader*. Yale, 2003.
 Mather, Cotton. *On Witchcraft*. Dover, 2005.

Graded Assignments

Graduate

Assignment	Proportion of final grade	Due date(s)
Short paper (8-10 pp.)	20%	10/21 (Friday)
Teaching presentation	20%	Throughout
Seminar paper (20-30 pp.)	60%	12/9
Presentation on final project	included in final paper grade	12/14

Undergraduate

Assignment	Proportion of final grade	Due date(s)
Short paper (8-10 pp.)	35%	10/21 (Friday)

Presentation	15%	Throughout
Seminar paper (10-15 pp.)	50%	12/9
Presentation on final project	included in final paper grade	12/14

We will distribute instructions (including late policies and grading criteria) for all assignments as separate documents. There is no final examination in this course.

Blog

We have set up a course blog at <http://slpuritan.blogspot.com/>. We will use the blog to summarize and reflect on each class period as well as to suggest questions to think about while reading. You should plan to check the blog regularly or set up an email subscription for new posts. You may also leave comments on the blog on topics of interest that arise, though this is not a requirement. Do not use the blog to communicate with us about course administrative matters; do that by email or in person.

E-mail Contact

E-mail is the best way to reach us, and we frequently use it to communicate with the class. All class e-mails will be sent to your *wmu* account. Plan to check it several times a week. Please copy both instructors on e-mail messages.

E-Learning

Most course materials (e.g., paper assignments, reading handouts) will be made available through E-Learning, as MS Word or pdf files, rather than distributed as photocopies in class. You should plan to download and print these materials for yourself. You can access the course E-Learning site through GoWMU. Log in to your account, click on the green “E-Learning” button at upper right, select our course, and then choose “Course Content” on the left side.

Attendance Policy

If you miss more than 2 classes **for any reason**, you will automatically fail the course. You are responsible for the material covered in any class sessions that you miss. If you miss a class we will send you an e-mail noting the date of your absence and your total absences to date. This information is for your convenience, to help you keep track of your absences.

Attendance is required; these 2 absences are intended to be used for illness or other unavoidable situations. If you miss two classes at the beginning of the semester and then become ill or have an emergency at the end of the semester, you will have to take an E for the course.

Cell Phones

Must be turned off during class time.

Academic Honesty

You are responsible for making yourself aware of and understanding the policies and procedures in the Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs that pertain to academic honesty. These policies may be found at <http://catalog.wmich.edu> under Academic Policies, Student Rights and Responsibilities. Behaviors covered by these policies include cheating, fabrication, falsification and forgery, multiple submission, plagiarism, complicity and computer misuse. If there is reason to believe you have been involved in academic dishonesty, you will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. You will be given the opportunity to review the charge(s). If you believe you are not responsible, you will have the opportunity for a hearing. If you accept responsibility or are found responsible it is very likely that you will fail the course. You should consult with me if you are uncertain about an issue of academic honesty prior to the submission of an assignment or test.

Special Needs

Any student with a documented disability (e.g., physical, learning, psychiatric, vision, hearing) who needs to arrange reasonable accommodations must contact me and the appropriate Disability Services office at the beginning of the semester.

Schedule

Sep 7	Introduction
Sep 14	William Shakespeare , <i>Twelfth Night</i> excerpt from Royall Tyler , <i>The Contrast</i> Thomas Hooker , “The Danger of Desertion” Philip Stubbes , “Stage-plays and Enterludes, with their wickednes.” from <i>The Anatomie of Abuses</i> (London, 1595) J.L. Simmons , “A Source for Shakespeare’s Malvolio: The Elizabethan Controversy with the Puritans,” <i>Huntington Library Quarterly</i> 36 (1973): 181-201.
Sep 21	William Bradford , <i>Of Plymouth Plantation</i> Thomas Morton , from <i>New English Canaan</i> Michelle Burnham , “Merchants, Money, and the Economics of ‘Plain Style’ in William Bradford’s <i>Of Plymouth Plantation</i> ,” <i>American Literature</i> 72.4 (Dec. 2000): 695-720. Josias Nichols , from <i>The Plea of the Innocent</i> (1602)

Sep 28	<p>Thomas Shepard, <i>God's Plot: Puritan Spiritual in Thomas Shepard's Cambridge</i></p> <p>John Bunyan, <i>Grace Abounding to the Chief of Sinners</i></p> <p>Baird Tipson, "The Routinized Piety of Thomas Shepard's Diary," <i>Early American Literature</i> 13.1 (Spring 1978): 64-80.</p>
Oct 5	<p>John Milton, <i>Paradise Lost</i> Books 1-4</p> <p>John Cotton, "God's Promise to His Plantations"</p> <p>J. Martin Evans, from <i>Milton's Imperial Epic: Paradise Lost and the Discourse of Colonialism</i> (Cornell, 1996)</p>
Oct 12	<p>John Milton, <i>Paradise Lost</i> Books 5-9</p> <p>John Winthrop, "A Model of Christian Charity"</p> <p>John Rogers, "Chaos, Creation, and the Political Science of <i>Paradise Lost</i>," <i>The Matter of Revolution: Science, Poetry and Politics in the Age of Milton</i> (Cornell UP, 1996): 103-143.</p>
Oct 19	<p>John Milton, <i>Paradise Lost</i> Books 10-12</p> <p>Jameela Lares, "<i>Paradise Lost</i> and the Sermon Types," <i>Milton and the Preaching Arts</i> (Duquesne, 2001): 141-168.</p>
Oct 26	<p>Edward Taylor, <i>God's Determinations</i></p> <p>Michael Wigglesworth, <i>The Day of Doom</i></p> <p>Anne Bradstreet, "A Dialogue Between Old England and New"</p> <p>Andrew Marvell, "Bermudas"</p> <p>J. Daniel Patterson, "<i>God's Determinations</i>: The Occasion, The Audience, and Taylor's Hope for New England," <i>Early American Literature</i> 22 (1987): 63-81.</p> <p>John C. Adams, "Alexander Richardson and the Ramist Poetics of Michael Wigglesworth," <i>Early American Literature</i> 25 (1990): 271-288.</p>
Nov 2	<p>John Bunyan, <i>The Pilgrim's Progress</i></p> <p>Edward Taylor, from <i>Preparatory Meditations (First and Second Series)</i>, Meditations 1.4 and "The Reflexion," 1.8, 2.19, 2.63, 2.84, 2.145, 2.155</p> <p>Anne Bradstreet, "Here Follow Some Verses Upon the Burning of Our House"</p>
Nov 9	<p>Alden T. Vaughn and Edward W. Clark (ed.), <i>Puritans Among the Indians</i></p> <p>Samuel Danforth, "Errand into the Wilderness"</p> <p>Lucy Hutchinson, "The Life of Mrs. Lucy Hutchinson, Written by Herself. A Fragment."</p> <p>Nancy Armstrong and Leonard Tennenhouse, "The American Origins of the English Novel," <i>American Literary History</i> 4.3 (Oct. 1992): 386-410.</p>
Nov 16	<p>Cotton Mather, <i>On Witchcraft</i></p> <p>from James I, <i>Daemonologie</i></p>
Nov 23	No class; Thanksgiving Recess
Nov 30	<p>Daniel Defoe, <i>Robinson Crusoe</i></p> <p>Leopold Damrosch, Jr., "Myth and Fiction in <i>Robinson Crusoe</i>," in <i>God's Plot & Man's Stories: Studies in the Fictional Imagination from Milton to Fielding</i> (Chicago, 1985): 187-212.</p>

Dec 7	<p>Jonathan Edwards, “The Spider Letter,” “Of Being,” “Miscellanies,” “Notes on the Apocalypse,” “A Faithful Narrative of the Surprising Work of God,” “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God,” “A Treatise Concerning Religious Affections,” “Original Sin,” “Apostrophe to Sarah Pierpont,” “Personal Narrative,” Letter to Esther Edwards Burr”</p> <p>Read Edwards’s “The Nature of True Virtue” if there is time</p> <p>Christopher Lukasik, “Feeling the Force of Certainty: The Divine Science, Newtonism, and Jonathan Edwards’s ‘Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God,’” <i>New England Quarterly</i> 73.2 (June 2000): 222-45.</p> <p>Jonathan Swift, from <i>A Tale of a Tub</i></p>
Dec 14, 5-7 p.m.	Student presentations (scheduled time for final exam)