

AUTHOR IN CONTEXT:

EDWARD TAYLOR AND ANNE BRADSTREET

Course Description and Syllabus

- TEXTS:** Morgan, Edmund. Visible Saints: The History of a Puritan Idea. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1965.
- Taylor, Edward. Edward Taylor's Gods Determinations and Preparatory Meditations. Ed. Daniel Patterson. Kent: Kent State University Press, 2003.
- Bradstreet, Anne. The Works of Anne Bradstreet. Ed. Jeannine Hensley. Cambridge: Belknap, 1967.

COURSE OBJECTIVE: This writing intensive course will be an in-depth study of the life, works, and historical/cultural milieu of the Puritan American poets Edward Taylor and Anne Bradstreet who are, respectively, the earliest American male and female poets. As a writing intensive course, instruction in research methods and writing in the field of English studies will also occupy some of our class time.

HELP:

Office = 141 Russell Hall

Phone = 831-5285. I have voice mail.

E-mail address = rguruswa@radford.edu

Office hours = 10-11 MTWR and by appointment. Please note that, as chair of the department, I also have office hours posted on my door for general student use. Feel free to avail yourself of these hours if mine for this class are not convenient for you.

ASSIGNMENTS:

[More detailed assignment sheets will be forthcoming, when necessary]

1. **Class Participation.** We will have occasional in-class and homework writing exercises. These will be evaluated with a check, check plus, or check minus. None can be made up, as they will serve as a measure of attendance. Worth 15% of overall grade.

2. **Oral and Written Researched Report.** Each student will be assigned a report topic. These will be historical and cultural, and will help to provide the context for our authors. When these are assigned, you will also receive a date on which you will give a 10-15 minute presentation to the class of the highlights of your research. The written report must be more extensive, properly researched, and clearly written.
Oral Report = 10%
Working bibliography (2 chances) = 10%
Written Report (2 chances) = 20%
3. **Close Reading of Poem.** Each student will choose one Taylor or Bradstreet poem (one we read in class or another one) and do a careful analysis of it. We will be going over the process of close poetic reading as we study the poems in class. This paper may or may not be researched. You will have two chances to write the paper. Worth 25%.
4. **Final examination.** This will be an in-class comprehensive exam. Worth 20% of overall grade.

POLICIES:

1. As mentioned above, all in-class and homework writing also serves as a measure of attendance. If you are not here to participate in class, you cannot make up the work, or turn in a homework sheet late. In the case of circumstances beyond your control causing you to miss class, you should see me as soon as possible to explain your absence.
2. Short extensions may be given, if requested, on the papers and related assignments. Late work beyond the extension or for which an extension has not been requested will lose a letter grade for every 24-hour period it is late. Extensions for reasonable excuses can be given on the presentations, but failure to show up without notification will result in an F for that presentation.
3. Revision of work is a hallmark of a writing intensive class. That is why, for several writing assignments in this class, you will be given a second chance for a grade. Taking that option will be left up to you; however, when the first draft of an assignment is due, you **MUST** hand in your work. If you wait until the second draft of a work is due and hand in your first draft, it will not be accepted.
4. Incompletes will be given only in cases of grave illness or other circumstances preventing you from completing the course. These must be arranged prior to the end of the semester.

5. I do not give extra-credit work under any circumstances.
6. All Radford University students are expected to abide by the Honor Code posted in each classroom. This class will be conducted in strict observance of that Code.
7. If inclement weather occurs on a day that our class is meeting but the University is not closed, I will e-mail the class about whether or not we will meet. Please use your own discretion as to whether or not you can come to class if it is held. Your absence on such days will not result in any decrease of points.

DAILY ASSIGNMENTS AND CLASS ACTIVITIES:

Have assigned work read when you come to class. Be sure to bring the appropriate book(s) and/or handouts to class on the days noted.

M Jan. 14: Introduction to course. Go over terms and timeline.

W Jan. 16: READ “Prologue” to Gods Determinations (Taylor 49-50) and “Prologue” to Tenth Muse (Bradstreet 15-17).

F Jan. 18: Roots of New England Puritanism. READ Morgan 1-63.

M Jan. 21: NO CLASS. MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY.

W Jan. 23: Report assignment distributed and discussed.

F Jan 25: Sign up for reports. The working bibliography. Winthrop, “Model of Christian Charity” distributed.

M Jan. 28: Report topics assigned. The errand into the wilderness and the New England way. READ Morgan 64-112; Winthrop sermon distributed on Friday.

W Jan. 30: The Halfway Covenant and beyond. READ Morgan 113-52.

F Feb. 1: Introduction to Edward Taylor. READ Taylor 1-11. Discovery and development of Taylor studies. Review of glossary.

M Feb. 4: Begin Taylor’s public poem: Gods Determinations. READ Introduction (Taylor 11-27) and the first part of the poem (50-59).

W Feb. 6: READ GD (about the First Rank) (Taylor 60-82).

F Feb. 8: FINISH GD (Taylor 83-121).

M Feb. 11: GD continued. How to structure a researched report: synthesis and organization.

W Feb. 13: **REPORTS: doctrine of predestination; covenant theology; Puritan use of the Bible**

F Feb. 15: Taylor’s private poetry: the Preparatory Meditations. READ Introduction (Taylor 27-41) and “Prologue” (123).

- M Feb. 18: The mystery of the Incarnation; Taylor's favorite theme. READ in Series One: Meditation 1, "The Experience," "The Return," Meditation 4; "The Reflexion." **REPORT: 17th century metaphysical poetry.**
- W Feb. 20: Working bibliography (first draft) due. Incarnation, continued. READ in Series One: Meditations 5, 7, and 8.
- F Feb. 22: Taylor's dedication to art. READ in Series One: Meditations 19, 20, 21, and 22.
- M Feb. 25: Revising your bibliography; from working to final.
- W Feb. 27: Poetry becomes a sign of spiritual fate. READ in Series One: Meditations 23, 24, 27, and 29.
- F Feb. 29: READ in Series One: Meditations 39, 40, 41, and 45.
- M Mar. 3: Series Two: the typology sequence. READ in Series Two: Meditaion 1. **REPORT: Typology. Second draft of working bibliography due.**
- W Mar. 5: Typology, continued. READ in Series Two: Meditations 5, 6, and 7.
- F Mar. 7: Return to the Incarnation. READ in Series Two: Meditations 43, 48, and 49.
- SPRING BREAK (March 8-16).
- M Mar. 17: The Lords Supper Controversy. READ in Series Two: Meditations 102, 103, 104, 105. **REPORT: Solomon Stoddard vs. Edward Taylor—the communion controversy.**
- W Mar. 19: READ in Series Two: Meditations 106, 107, 108, 109, and 110.
- F Mar. 21: The hope of heaven: the Canticles series. READ in Series Two: 115, 119, 120, 132, and 144. Taylor, "Upon Wedlock and Death of Children" distributed.
- M Mar. 24: Personal poetry. READ in Series One: Meditations 33 and 36; in Series Two: Meditations 40, 41, 42, and "Upon Wedlock and Death of Children."
- W Mar. 26: Bradstreet's personal poetry: the grandchildren poems (Bradstreet 235-29). Close reading assignment distributed and discussed.
- F Mar. 28: Introduction to Anne Bradstreet. READ "Foreword" by Adrienne Rich and "Introduction" by Jeannine Hensley (Bradstreet ix-xxxvi). **REPORTS: The Tenth Muse concept; manuscript and print culture.**
- M Mar. 31: READ the introductory material to The Tenth Muse (Bradstreet 3-12) and review "Prologue" (15-17) **REPORTS: 16th century British poetry; the querelle des femmes.**
- W Apr. 2: First drafts of researched report due. Renaissance Bradstreet. READ "The Four Elements" (Bradstreet 18-32) and "A Dialogue between Old England and New" (179-88).
- F Apr. 4: READ "An Elegy Upon . . . Sir Philip Sidney," "In Honour of Du Bartas," and "In Honour of Queen Elizabeth" (Bradstreet 189-98) and "The Author to Her Book" (221).
- M Apr. 7: Bradstreet and the New World. READ "Contemplations" (204-14). More on close reading technique.
- W Apr. 9: **REPORTS: The English Civil War (1642-1651); the Antinomian controversy; Emerson's theories of nature.**
- F Apr. 11: READ "The Flesh and the Spirit," "The Vanity of All Worldly Things," [note the typo in the title in your book!], (Bradstreet 215-220) and ". . . Verses Upon the Burning of Our House" (292-93).

M Apr. 14: Puritan love. READ “To My Dear and Loving Husband” and the three “letters” to her husband [in poem form] (Bradstreet 225-230) and “Upon My Dear and Loving Husband, His Going into England” (265-66). First drafts of close reading due.

W Apr. 16: READ “Before the Birth of One of Her Children” (Bradstreet 224) ; “In Reference to Her Children” (232-34); and “On My Son’s Return” (263-64).

F Apr. 18: NO CLASS. TEACHER AT CONFERENCE.

M Apr. 21: Bradstreet’s prose meditations. (271-91).

W Apr. 23: How to perfect your close reading.

F Apr. 25: Final drafts of researched reports due. Review for final exam.

The final exam period will be 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. on Thursday May 1. There will be three sections: (1) major essay question; (2) identification of passages by author and significance; (3) questions from the contextualizing reports.

At this time, the final draft of the close reading will also be due.