

**ENL XXX:**  
**Utopian Occupations in Early Modern English Literature**

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**Course Description**

In this course we will examine early moderns' occupation of (and preoccupation with) utopian spaces. In particular, we will focus on 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century English literary figurations of such spaces, and how such locations are conceived as *eutopia* ("good place") for some and *oútopia* ("no place") for others. A key concern will be to interrogate how such spaces allow for alternative forms of social and sexual belonging not open to—and often vilified by—those outside of these settings.

This course is also designed to introduce undergraduates to scholarly research in the field of early modern studies. Over the quarter, students will develop a topic inspired by our course inquiry, conduct original research, and compose a 10-page final paper that synthesizes their research with their own analysis. It is my hope that by the end of the quarter, students will have cultivated a set of transferrable research skills and contributed to scholarly critical discussions with confidence and zeal.

**Materials**

- Sir Thomas More, *Utopia*
- John Milton, *Paradise Lost*
- John Donne, *The Complete Poetry and Selected Prose of John Donne*
- John Lyly, *Gallathea*
- William Shakespeare, *Measure for Measure*
- Margaret Cavendish, *The Convent of Pleasure*
- Course reader

**Requirements and Expectations**

***Attendance and Participation***

Your presence is crucial to your success in this course, and attendance will factor in to your final grade. In addition to showing up, you should come to class prepared to engage in conversation. *This means having questions and/or comments ready* that illustrate your investment in the reading and/or your writing. To earn a high participation grade, students must come to class regularly, show investment in class activities and short writing assignments, and engage actively in discussion.

***Written Work***

This is a writing-intensive course. It includes short writing exercises and an annotated bibliography / critical history designed to help you compose the 10-page final paper, in which you will marshal the research you conducted over the quarter to make an original argument. All written work is due on the date specified in the course schedule, either in hard copy or on SmartSite (hereafter SS). You may arrange an in-person appointment with me to discuss your drafting progress; however, I cannot read drafts sent as email attachments or paste-ins.

***Plagiarism & Academic Integrity***

All written work must be attributed to the correct sources. Ideas from published material or from other people must be credited. It is unacceptable to:

- Copy another's work and claim it as one's own.
- Download material from the Internet without proper citation.
- Submit a paper—or substantial part of a paper—written for another course without the expressed permission of the instructors involved.

Since plagiarism also includes neglecting to provide acknowledgement for facts, ideas, or expression, we will spend time in class discussing documentation strategies.

### ***Classroom Community***

Throughout the quarter, we will work as a classroom community to foster a trusting environment where we can respectfully engage in critical conversation. Although you will be doing much research and writing outside of class, there will be several opportunities for you to share your experiences and ask questions (including through our course blog), and receive feedback from your peers (through in-class workshop).

### **Evaluation Methods**

Attendance & Participation:	15%
Research Exercises:	15%
Annotated Bibliography & Critical History:	20%
Final Paper:	40%
Final Exam:	10%

### **Course Schedule**

This schedule is subject to change in case of emergency or to accommodate class needs. You will be notified in class and/or via email/SmartSite regarding any changes impacting assignment due dates.

**SS: SmartSite Resources; CE: Critical Essay; R: Course Reader**

<b>Day</b>	<b>Due for Class</b>	<b>Major Due Dates</b>
<b>1</b>	Introduction and syllabus overview	
<b>UNIT 1: NEW WORLDS</b>		
<b>2</b>	More, <i>Utopia</i> (selections)	
<b>3</b>	Harriot, <i>A Briefe and True Report of the New Found Land of Virginia</i> (R) CE: McClintock, <i>Imperial Leather</i> , Chapter 1 (R)	
<b>4</b>	Milton, <i>Paradise Lost</i> , excerpts from Books 7-9	
<b>5</b>	CE: Pici, "Milton's 'Eco-Eden': Place and Notions of the 'Green' in <i>Paradise Lost</i>	<b>Exercise #1 (Topic Proposal) due in SS Assignments</b>
<b>6</b>	Donne, <i>Elegies</i> (selections) Crooke, <i>Mikrocosmographia</i> , <i>THE FOVRTH BOOKE</i> "Of the Naturall Parts belonging to generation" (link on SS)	
<b>7</b>	Sharp, <i>The Midwives Book</i> , Chapter X-XIII (R) CE: Harvey, "Anatomies of Rapture" (R)	

UNIT 2: COUNTRY MATTERS		
8	Brome, <i>A Jovial Crew</i> (link on SS)	Exercise #2 (EEBO Archival Text) due in SS Assignments
9	Head, selections from <i>The English Rogue Described</i> (link on SS) CE: Sanders, “Beggars’ Commonwealths and the Pre-Civil War Stage” (R)	
10	Lyly, <i>Gallathea</i>	
11	CE: Berger, “The Renaissance Imagination: Second World and Green World” (R)	Exercise #3 (Close Reading) due in SS Assignments
12	Marvell, “Upon Appleton House” (R)	
13	CE: Monette, “Speaking and Silent Women in “Upon Appleton House” (R)	
UNIT 3: URBAN ESCAPES / ON THE MARGINS		
14	Cavendish, <i>The Convent of Pleasure</i> Anon, “Virgins ABC” (link on SS)	
15	CE: Schwarz, “Chastity, Militant and Married” (R)	Annotated Bibliography and Critical History due in SS Assignments
16	Shakespeare, <i>Measure for Measure</i> Maps of early modern London (link on SS)	
17	Gosson, <i>The School of Abuse</i> (R) Lodge, <i>A Reply to Stephen Gosson’s School of Abuse</i> (R) Heywood, <i>An Apology for Actors</i> (R)	
18	Whitney, “Will and Testament” (R)	
19	<b>Workshop Day</b> (Bring the working draft of your final paper and your filled out pre-workshop worksheet to class.)	<b>Draft of final paper due in hard copy (at least 6 pages)</b>
20	“Dental Drafting”; Research Sharing Day	

**Final Paper due** \_\_\_\_\_

**Final Exam:** \_\_\_\_\_