ENLT 431.01: Senior Seminar - Metaphysical Poetry

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ENLT 431.01
Senior Seminar: Metaphysical Poetry
Autumn 2000
TR 12:40-2:00, LA 334

Prof. John Hunt
LA 133-B, x4062
Hours: TR 11-12 and 2-3, W 1-2
e-mail: hunt@selway.umt.edu

Primary texts:  
George Herbert and the Seventeenth Century Religious Poets, ed. DiCesare (NCE)

Schedule of reading assignments:

Sept. 5 None
7 Donne Miscellaneous poems t.b.a.
Essays by miscellaneous poets (Jonson, Carew, Dryden, Johnson, Coleridge, Eliot) in NCE

12 Pico Excerpts from Oration on the Dignity of Man
Browne Excerpts from Religio Medici
Traherne Excerpts from Centuries of Meditation
14 Donne The Indifferent
Community
Confined Love
Love's Alchemy
Elegy XVI. Love's Progress (handout)
Elegy XIX. To His Mistress going to Bed

19 Donne Elegy X. The Dream
Sappho to Philaenis (handout)
Satire I
Satire III
To Sir Henry Wotton
To Mr Roland Woodward
21 Donne Lovers' Infiniteness
Love's Growth
The Dream
The Primrose
A Lecture upon the Shadow

26 Donne Air and Angels
The Ecstasy
Negative Love

28 No class

Oct. 3 Donne The Good-Morrow
The Sun Rising
The Canonization
The Anniversary
A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning
5 Donne A Fever
A Valediction: Of Weeping
A Nocturnal upon St. Lucy's Day, Being the Shortest Day
The Dissolution

10 Donne Holy Sonnets XIV, I, V, XVII, XVIII, XIX
12 Donne An Anatomy of the World: The First Anniversary
Good Friday, 1613. Riding Westward
17 Donne
To Mr. Tilman after he had taken orders
A Hymn to Christ, at the Author's Last Going into Germany
Hymn to God my God, in my Sickness
A Hymn to God the Father

19 Herbert
The Altar
Easter Wings
The Holy Scriptures (II)
Anagram
Iesu
The Bunch of Grapes
Paradise
The Son

24 Herbert
Prayer (I)
Church Monuments
Church Music
The Windows
Virtue
Aaron
The Elixir
Death
Doomsday

26 Herbert
The Agony
Redemption
Holy Baptism (II)
The Holy Communion
Church Lock-and-Key
Vanity (I)
Man
The Bag

31 Herbert
Affliction (I)
Jordan (I)
Employment (II)
The Pearl
Jordan (II)
The Collar
The Forerunners

Nov. 2 Herbert
The Temper (I)
The Temper (II)
The Flower
The Pulley

7 No class

9 Herbert
Denial
Dialogue
Artillery
Judgement
Love (III)

14 Crashaw
To the Infant Martyrs
Upon the Infant Martyrs
I Am the Door
Upon Lazarus His Tears
And He Answered Them Nothing
Upon Our Saviour's Tomb Wherein Never Man Was Laid
Saint Mary Magdalene, or The Weeper

16 Crashaw
A Hymn to the Name and Honor of the Admirable Saint Teresa
from The Flaming Heart
To the Noblest and Best of Ladies, The Countess of Denbigh

21 Marvell
The Coronet
Eyes and Tears
To His Coy Mistress
The Definition of Love
An Horatian Ode Upon Cromwell’s Return

23 No class

28 Marvell
On a Drop of Dew
Bermudas
The Picture of Little T.C. in a Prospect of Flowers

30 Marvell
The Nymph Complaining for the Death of Her Fawn

Dec. 5 Marvell
A Dialogue Between the Soul and Body
The Mower Against Gardens
The Garden

7 Marvell
Upon Appleton House

12 Vaughan
Distraction
Vanity of Spirit
The World
Mount of Olives (II)
Man
The Waterfall

14 Vaughan
The Retreat
The Morning Watch
Corruption
They are all gone into the world of light
Cock-crowing
The Seed Growing Secretly
The Night

19 Minor writers (finals hour, 10:10-12:10 Tuesday)

In addition to the primary readings listed, some scholarly and critical reading will be assigned at various points during the semester—from the Norton Critical Editions, as handouts, and on reserve at the library.

The goals of the course are for you to gain facility in reading the intensely dramatic, highly compressed, and intellectually coherent poetry written in the “metaphysical” style; to become aware of the ways in which poems written in this style can be conceived as “microcosmic” or “hieroglyphic”; and to articulate the intellectual drama created in particular poems by poets pursuing these microcosmic strategies.

Your success in achieving these goals will be evaluated primarily through a long (15-20 pp) argumentative paper due on Friday, Dec. 15; and secondarily through class participation and three or four short (1 p.), informal response papers which you will xerox and distribute to all the members of the class. I will circulate a sign-up sheet for days to write the response papers, and I will assign a due date to turn in a short draft of the long paper.

More than three unexcused absences will lower your course grade.