

EN2K5-15 Literature and Revolution 1640-1660: Turning the World Upside Down

20/21

Department

English and Comparative Literary Studies

Level

Undergraduate Level 2

Module leader

John West

Credit value

15

Module duration

9 weeks

Assessment

100% coursework

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

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[Module web page](#)

Module aims

The module aims to provide students with an understanding of literature written during the British Civil Wars, the Republic and Protectorate, and the early Restoration. Students will explore the variety of political and religious ideas to which this writing gave voice and the way it transformed how established forms of social authority were imagined. It aims to provide students with an understanding of how these changes led to, and were manifested in, experiments in a variety of literary and non-literary forms and genres.

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

Week 1: England on the Edge: William Davenant, *Salmacida Spolia* (1640) and Richard Brome, *A Jovial Crew* (1641).

Week 2: Print and Politics: John Milton, *Aereopagitica* (1644).

Week 3: The Old Country and the New: Anne Bradstreet, poems from *The Tenth Muse* (1650).

Week 4: Leveller Literature: William Walwyn, *The Bloody Project* (1648), Alexander Brome, 'The Levellers Rant'.

Week 5: Debating the Regicide: extracts from *Eikon Basilike* and *Eikonoklastes* (both 1649); royalist elegy and drama.

Week 7: Early Modern Communism: Gerrard Winstanley, *The True Levellers Standard* (1650); Digger ballads and poetry.

Week 8: Gender and Prophecy: Anna Trapnel, *The Cry of a Stone* (1654); extracts from Thomas Edwards, *Gangraena* (1646).

Week 9: Republican and Protectoral Culture: Marvell, *The First Anniversary* (1654) and *Elegy on the Death of the Lord Protector* (1658); anti-Cromwellian satire.

Week 10: History and Memory: Dryden, *Astraea Redux* (1660); extracts from Lucy Hutchinson, *Memoirs of the Life of Colonel Hutchinson* (1660s).

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the set texts on the module and some of the main aspects the cultural, political, and intellectual contexts of the 1640s and 1650s.
- Show awareness of imaginative techniques and rhetorical strategies used in non-literary as well as literary texts.
- Some understanding of the literary critical and historical scholarship on the middle decades of the 17th century, and the ability to draw these perspectives into their own written arguments.
- Analyse a range of literary and non-literary texts in their contexts.

Indicative reading list

The Broadview Anthology of Seventeenth-Century Verse and Prose (2000)

Peter Davidson, ed. *Poetry and Revolution: An Anthology of British and Irish Verse* (1999)

Laura Knoppers ed. *The Oxford Handbook of the Literature of the English Revolution* (2012)

Michael Braddick, ed. *The Oxford Handbook of the English Revolution* (2015)

Christopher Hill, *The World Turned Upside Down* (1972)

Nigel Smith, *Literature and Revolution* (1994)

David Cressy, *England on the Edge, 1640-42* (2000)

Elizabeth Scott-Baumann and Sarah Ross, ed. *Women Poets of the Civil War* (2017)

Rachel Foxley, *The Levellers: Radical Political Thought* (2014)

Nicholas McDowell, *The English Radical Imagination* (2003)

Robert Wilcher, *The Writing of Royalism* (2001)

Laura Knoppers, *Constructing Cromwell* (2000)

Janet Clare ed., *From Republic to Restoration* (2018)

Kate Chedgzoy, Women's Writing in the British Atlantic World (2007)

Anne Hughes, Gender in the English Revolution (2012)

Subject specific skills

No subject specific skills defined for this module.

Transferable skills

No transferable skills defined for this module.

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	9 sessions of 1 hour (6%)
Seminars	9 sessions of 1 hour (6%)
Private study	132 hours (88%)
Total	150 hours

Private study description

Reading & research.

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You must pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Assessment group A1

	Weighting	Study time
3500 word Essay	100%	
1 x 3500-word summative essay (100%) based on a list of questions provided by the tutor.		

Feedback on assessment

Written comments on formative and summative work; opportunity for further oral feedback.

Availability

Courses

This module is Optional for:

- Year 2 of UENA-Q300 Undergraduate English Literature
- Year 2 of UENA-QP36 Undergraduate English Literature and Creative Writing
- Year 2 of UTHA-QW34 Undergraduate English and Theatre Studies
- Year 2 of UFIA-QW25 Undergraduate Film and Literature

This module is Option list C for:

- Year 2 of UCXA-QQ37 Undergraduate Classics and English

This module is Option list D for:

- Year 2 of UPHA-VQ72 Undergraduate Philosophy and Literature