

Dr. Vin Nardizzi (he/his/him)
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Office: BuTo 425
Hours: Tuesdays 1:00 – 3:00 pm

English 244 **001 (3 credits)**
MWF 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm
Room: Chem C126

Unreal Environments in the Renaissance

What might utopia, the island of Shakespeare's *Tempest*, and a knight's quest across an allegorical landscape all have in common? This course proposes that, in different ways, each tries to imagine environments that are "unreal": they do not seem to adhere in a strict way to prevailing (and perhaps now antiquated) norms of spatial and temporal representation. What can they tell us about environmental aesthetics (style, representation, literary culture) and science (description, experiment, hypothesis) in Renaissance England? And why might *other* artists and readers in the period have tried to map some of these unreal textual environments?

By the end of this course, you will have learned a great deal about English Renaissance literature; the environment in relation to discourses and practices such as realism, the landscape arts, cartography, empire, slavery, and travel writing; the history of islands at the intersection of colonial and environmental histories; some relationships among race, religion, nationality, and gender in English poetry and travel writing; early speculative fiction in the British tradition; and how – *and why* – some of this fiction's readers tried to visualize the environments imagined in it.

Our **required** course texts are available at the UBC Bookstore:

John Bunyan, *The Pilgrim's Progress* (Oxford)
Margaret Cavendish, *The Blazing World & Other Writings* (Penguin)
William Shakespeare, *The Tempest* (Arden)
Edmund Spenser, *The Faerie Queene Book II* (Hackett)
Three Early Modern Utopias (Oxford)

Short scholarly excerpts and visual materials will be available online (through a link or through UBC's Library), via PDF, and delivered in the classroom. Materials marked this way (*) will be distributed via PDF.

There will be two short papers (**60%**) and a midterm exam (**30%**). The remainder of your course mark (**10%**) will be determined by attendance and class participation. You are expected to attend lectures, take notes, and contribute meaningfully to classroom conversations. I do not accept late papers without an excuse.

UBC provides resources to support student learning and to maintain healthy lifestyles. It also recognizes that sometimes crises arise, and so there are additional resources to access, including those for survivors of sexual violence. UBC values respect for the person and ideas of all members of the academic community. Harassment and discrimination are not tolerated nor is suppression of academic freedom. UBC provides appropriate accommodation for students with disabilities and for religious observances. UBC values academic honesty, and students are expected to acknowledge the ideas generated by others and to uphold the highest academic standards in all of their actions.

Details of the policies and how to access support are available here: <https://senate.ubc.ca/policies-resources-support-student-success>

Attendance Policy: <http://english.ubc.ca/resources/resources-for-students/#attendance>

Plagiarism Policy: <http://learningcommons.ubc.ca/academic-integrity/>

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- 09-04** **Introductions**
Henry Peacham, **from** *The Art of Drawing* (1606)
Margaret Cavendish, "A Land-skip" (1653)
- 09-06** (*) Roland Barthes, "The Reality Effect" (1968)
(*) Alastair Fowler, **from** *Renaissance Realism* (2003)

ISLAND ENVIRONMENTS

- 09-09 to 09-11** Thomas More, *Utopia* (Book 2, pp. 49-123) (1516)
- 09-13** More, *Utopia* (Book 1, pp. 10-48)
- 09-16** More, *Utopia* (pp. 124-133)
(*) S.A. Zavala, *Sir Thomas More in New Spain* (1955)
- 09-18 & 09-20** **No Class**
- 09-23** William Shakespeare, *The Tempest* (Acts 1-2) (1611)
from Montaigne, "Of the Caniballes" (pp. 303-14) (1603)
- 09-25** Shakespeare, *The Tempest* (Act 3)
- 09-27** Shakespeare, *The Tempest* (Act 4)
- 09-30** Shakespeare, *The Tempest* (Act 5)
- 10-02** Francis Bacon, *New Atlantis* (pp. 149-66) (1627)
- 10-04** Bacon, *New Atlantis* (pp.167-86)
Debapriya Sarkar, "Utopian" (2018)
(<https://arcade.stanford.edu/content/utopian>)
- 10-07** Defining **allegory** in Edmund Spenser, *The Faerie Queene*
(pp. 225-28) (1590)
Paper #1 Due

ALLEGORICAL LANDSCAPES

- 10-09** Spenser, *The Faerie Queene*, Book II, Canto 1
- 10-11** Spenser, *The Faerie Queene*, Canto 2
- 10-14** **Thanksgiving**
- 10-16 to 10-18** Spenser, *The Faerie Queene*, Cantos 3-5

- 10-21 to 10-25** Spenser, *The Faerie Queene*, Cantos 6-9
Chris Barrett, "The Dream of an Unmappable Nation"
(pp. 47-71) (2018)
- 10-28 to 10-30** Spenser, *The Faerie Queene*, Cantos 10-12
Barrett, "The Dream of an Unmappable Nation" (pp. 71-88)
- 11-01** **Midterm Exam on Spenser**
- 11-04** John Bunyan, *The Pilgrim's Progress: The First Part*
(pp. 3-42) (1678)
- 11-06** Bunyan, *The Pilgrim's Progress* (pp. 43-84)
- 11-08** Bunyan, *The Pilgrim's Progress* (pp. 84-129)
- 11-11** **Remembrance Day**
- 11-13 to 11-15** **No Class**
Finish Bunyan, *The Pilgrim's Progress* (pp. 129-55)
- 11-18** (*) **from** Cynthia Wall, *The Prose of Things* (pp. 53-69)
(2006)

Royal Society: Science and Speculative Fiction

- 11-20** Margaret Cavendish, *The Blazing World* (pp. 121-48) (1666)
- 11-22** Cavendish, *The Blazing World* (pp. 148-80)
- 11-25** Cavendish, *The Blazing World* (pp. 180-202)
- 11-27** Cavendish, *The Blazing World* (pp. 203-225)
- 11-29** **Section Wrap-up & Paper # 2 Due**
from Paul J. Crutzen and Eugene F. Stoermer, "The
'Anthropocene'" (2000)
from Amitav Ghosh, *The Great Derangement* (2016)