UNIVERSITETET   
I OSLO

 Institutt for litteratur, områdestudium og europeiske språk

**WRITTEN EXAMINATION**

**AUTUMN 2013**

**4 pages**

**ENG2301- English Renaissance Literature**

**Duration: 4 hours**  **Friday, 13 December 2013**

**You are allowed to use an English**–**English dictionary.**

**The question must be answered in English.**

**You must submit your paper only on copy-sheets.**

Write an essay on ***ONE*** of the following topics:

1. “The *persona* in ‘The Garden’ is guilty of egoism, self-indulgence and the arrogant rejection of God’s will.” Do you consider this a valid interpretation of Marvell’s poem? Why, why not? (Text provided below.)

*OR*

1. Give an interpretation of Donne’s poem, “A Hymn to God the Father.” (Text provided below.)

*OR*

1. “Renaissance writers are obsessed with death.” Discuss whether or in what ways this may be so with reference to at least TWO of the syllabus texts.

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| **TEXT 1: Andrew Marvell, “The Garden”**  1   **How** vainly men themselves amaze  2   To win the palm, the oak, or bays,  3   And their uncessant labors see  4   Crowned from some single herb or tree,  5   Whose short and narrow-vergèd shade  6   Does prudently their toils upbraid;  7   While all flowers and all trees do close  8   To weave the garlands of repose!  9   Fair Quiet, have I found thee here,  10   And Innocence, thy sister dear?  11   Mistaken long, I sought you then  12   In busy companies of men.  13   Your sacred plants, if here below,  14   Only among the plants will grow;  15   Society is all but rude,  16   To this delicious solitude.  17   No white nor red was ever seen  18   So amorous as this lovely green.  19   Fond lovers, cruel as their flame,  20   Cut in these trees their mistress’ name:  21   Little, alas, they know or heed  22   How far these beauties hers exceed!  23   Fair trees, wheresoe’er your barks I wound,  24   No name shall but your own be found.  25   When we have run our passion’s heat,  26   Love hither makes his best retreat.  27   The gods, that mortal beauty chase,  28   Still in a tree did end their race:  29   Apollo hunted Daphne so,  30   Only that she might laurel grow;  31   And Pan did after Syrinx speed,  32   Not as a nymph, but for a reed.  33   What wondrous life in this I lead!  34   Ripe apples drop about my head;  35   The luscious clusters of the vine  36   Upon my mouth do crush their wine;  37   The nectarine and curious peach 38   Into my hands themselves do reach;  39   Stumbling on melons as I pass,  40   Ensnared with flowers, I fall on grass.  41   Meanwhile the mind, from pleasure less,  42   Withdraws into its happiness; 43   The mind, that ocean where each kind  44   Does straight its own resemblance find;  45   Yet it creates, transcending these,  46   Far other worlds and other seas,  47   Annihilating all that’s made  48   To a green thought in a green shade.  49   Here at the fountain’s sliding foot,  50   Or at some fruit tree’s mossy root,  51   Casting the body’s vest aside,  52   My soul into the boughs does glide:  53   There like a bird it sits and sings,  54   Then whets and combs its silver wings, 55   And, till prepared for longer flight,  56   Waves in its plumes the various light.  57   Such was that happy garden-state,  58   While man there walked without a mate:  59   After a place so pure and sweet,  60   What other help could yet be meet!  61   But ’twas beyond a mortal’s share  62   To wander solitary there:  63   Two paradises ’twere in one  64   To live in paradise alone.    65   How well the skillful gardener drew  66   Of flowers and herbs this dial new, 67   Where from above the milder sun  68   Does through a fragrant zodiac run;  69   And as it works, th’ industrious bee  70   Computes its time as well as we!  71   How could such sweet and wholesome hours  72   Be reckoned but with herbs and flowers? |

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| **TEXT 2: John Donne, “A Hymn to God the Father”** |
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| |  | | --- | | 1 Wilt thou forgive that sin where I begun, | | 2 Which is my sin, though it were done before? | | 3 Wilt thou forgive that sin through which I run, | | 4 And do run still, though still I do deplore? | | 5 When thou hast done, thou hast not done, | | 6 For I have more. | |  | | 7 Wilt thou forgive that sin by which I have won | | 8 Others to sin? and made my sin their door? | | 9 Wilt thou forgive that sin which I did shun | | 10 A year or two, but wallowed in a score? | | 11 When thou hast done, thou hast not done, | | 12    For I have more. | |  | | 13 I have a sin of fear, that when I have spun | | 14 My last thread, I shall perish on the shore; | | 15 Swear by thy self, that at my death thy Son | | 16 Shall shine as he shines now and heretofore; | | 17 And, having done that, thou hast done, | | 18    I fear no more. | |
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**Marks will be published at StudentWeb within three weeks of the examination.**

**For an explanation of the grade, please contact the exam coordinator, Kristin Berstad (**[**k.m.berstad@ilos**](mailto:k.m.berstad@ilos)**.uio.no), within *one week* of the announcement of the results. Remember to include your candidate number. A written or oral explanation will be given at the examiner’s discretion.**