HIST/INDS 512: THE PURITAN IMAGINATION
Johanna Harris
July 26 – 30; 8:30 – 11:30 am
1 or 2 graduate credit hours; or 1 audit hour
Live online & Recorded

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course invites its participants to immerse themselves in two classics of the Christian imagination: Milton’s Paradise Lost (1667) and Bunyan’s Pilgrim’s Progress (1678). Written just over a decade apart, they each have had a profound influence upon the shaping of the modern literary and theological imagination. Over five sessions we will address five broad theological themes where both Milton’s and Bunyan’s creative explorations and depictions have had a profound influence upon the development and nature of English literary, historical, and theological ideas. We will explore the imaginative artistry and the historical doctrinal perspectives of these two seventeenth-century puritans, and experience afresh the profound insights to the Christian experience of their extraordinary literary achievements. Classes will begin with a short 20-25 minute mini-lecture, introducing the key themes under discussion and providing relevant historical contexts, followed by open discussion in seminar-style format.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES
Upon the successful completion of this course, students should have a clearer understanding of:

1. Understand and enjoy two of the greatest classics of English literature, Paradise Lost and The Pilgrim’s Progress, and be able to situate these two works in their historical moment.

2. Identify key theological themes and concerns addressed by Milton and Bunyan in their works and link these both to the nature of seventeenth-century Puritanism and its legacy.

3. Reflect on the way Paradise Lost and The Pilgrim’s Progress have influenced the development of the Christian imagination, especially in relation to core Christian themes such as sin, the Fall, Heaven, Hell, the spiritual progress or journey, redemption, and hope.

COURSE OUTLINE
Day 1 July 26 Imagining God and Satan
Day 2 July 27 Imagining Sin and the Fall
Day 3 July 28 Imagining Human Nature: Adam, Even, and Christian
Day 4 July 29 Imagining Place: Landmarks of Paradise Lost and The Pilgrim’s Progress
Day 5 July 30 Hope: Imagining Redemption, Imagining Heaven

REQUIRED TEXTS
The Penguin Classics and the Oxford World’s Classics editions are recommended as scholarly yet affordable. Choosing between these editions is desirable for this course.

Looking for textbooks? Please contact the Regent Bookstore, or check out their direct-fulfillment website, Aerio.
Note: Aerio prices are in USD.

Please Note: This Course Information Sheet is meant to assist in selecting courses. The official syllabus should be consulted for more detailed information. A full syllabus with drop deadlines, policies, and course assignment details is available on Moodle for registered students: moodle.regent-college.edu/login