

English 335
Spring 2003
MWF 12:40-1:40
Palmer 210

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M-F 2-3 & by appt.

Milton

This course examines all of Milton's major poetry, and some of the prose, and its relationship to a variety of contexts and traditions. We will consider Milton's debts to Renaissance humanism and the Protestant Reformation, and we will study his innovations in such genres as pastoral, masque, and epic. Because Milton was a writer closely engaged in the revolutionary movements of his age, we will explore his place in the political controversies of the seventeenth century. We will consider how Milton returns to the theme of liberty in numerous contexts—in matters of church organization, domestic arrangements, and press censorship. And in such works as Paradise Lost and Samson Agonistes we will examine Milton's paradoxical attitudes toward women. Milton's prose and poetry are famously difficult; in general, this course will provide an extended practicum in reading and re-reading closely and carefully.

Required text: The Riverside Milton, ed. Roy Flannagan

Recommended text: Writing with Style, John R. Trimble (2nd ed.)

Course requirements:

Essays	60%
Exams	30%
Participation	10%

Essays: You will write three essays in this class and a research paper proposal.

- The first essay will involve the close analysis of a passage from one of the works we will read in the first three weeks of class (10% of the final grade; 4-5 pp).
- The second essay will be a review essay in which you examine two or three critical studies of a particular work by Milton (15% of the final grade; 5-7 pp.).
- You will write a proposal for a final research paper, including an annotated bibliography of relevant works of criticism (10% of the final grade; 3-4 pp.)
- You will write a final research paper (25% of the final grade; 10 pp.)

Exams: You will take a midterm (10% of the final grade) and a final (20%).

Participation: Class participation will include unannounced reading comprehension quizzes and leading class at least once during the semester with a partner.

Policies:

Absences: You are allowed two absences, no questions asked. More absences may lower your class participation grade. Quizzes and in-class work cannot be made up. Also, repeatedly arriving late to class may harm your participation grade. Please come to class on time with your book. If you come to class without your book, I may dismiss you.

Late work: Late papers will lose one-third of the grade for each day they are late. That is, a B becomes a B-, and so forth.

Honor code: All written work should be original to you unless otherwise documented. All written work must also be original to this course, unless I have given you explicit permission to build on something you have already written.

Disabilities: If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Office of Student Disability Services as soon as possible.

Schedule of Readings and Assignments

Wed	1-15	Introduction
Fri	1-17	<u>L'Allegro</u> (65-71)
Mon	1-20	No class (MLK)
Wed	1-22	<u>Il Penseroso</u> (71-77)
Fri	1-24	“On the Morning of Christ’s Nativity” (38-47)
Mon	1-27	<u>A Mask</u> (122-71), with Jonson, <u>Pleasure Reconciled to Virtue</u> (handout)
Wed	1-29	<u>A Mask</u> , with <u>Apology</u> (selections, handout)
Fri	1-31	<u>A Mask</u>
Mon	2-3	Sonnets 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 9; “Letter to a Friend” (1049-50); “To My Father” (223-27)
Wed	2-5	“The Passion,” with Donne, “Good Friday, 1613, Riding Westward” (handout)
Fri	2-7	Cont. discussion of “The Passion” with Herbert “The Sacrifice,” “The Thanksgiving,” and “The Reprisal” (handout); paper #1
Mon	2-10	<u>Lycidas</u> (100-07)
Wed	2-12	<u>Lycidas</u>
Fri	2-14	Workshop on criticism
Mon	2-17	<u>Reason of Church Government</u> (Book 1: Preface, chapters 1, 2, and 6; 903-08, 913-17)

- Wed 2-19 RCG (Bk. 2; 920-25); Doctrine and Discipline of Divorce (Bk. 1: Preface, ch. 1 and 2; 930-38)
- Fri 2-21 DDD (Bk. 1: ch. 3, 4, 6; Bk 2: ch. 1; 938-40, 941-42, 950-51)
- Mon 2-24 Areopagitica (997-1011)
- Wed 2-26 Areopagitica (1011-1024)
- Fri 2-28 Areopagitica; criticism review essay due
- Mon 3-3 Study day
- Wed 3-5 Midterm
- Fri 3-7 Second Defense (1096-1118)

Spring Recess

- Mon 3-17 Sonnets 15, 16 (289-91), 18, 19 (254-56), 22 (293), 23 (258-59), “On the New Forcers of Conscience” (264-66)
- Wed 3-19 Paradise Lost, Book 1 (352-73); Genesis 1-3
- Fri 3-21 Paradise Lost, Book 1, cont. (373-78); Marvell, “On Paradise Lost” (350-52)
- Mon 3-24 Paradise Lost, Book 2 (381-412)
- Wed 3-26 Paradise Lost, Book 3 (415-38)
- Fri 3-28 Paradise Lost, Book 4 (441-73)
- Mon 3-31 Paradise Lost, Book 5 (475-504); research proposal and bibliography due
- Wed 4-2 Paradise Lost, Book 6 (507-35)
- Fri 4-4 Paradise Lost, Book 7 (537-59)
- Mon 4-7 Paradise Lost, Book 8 (561-81)
- Wed 4-9 Paradise Lost, Book 9 (583-621)
- Fri 4-11 Paradise Lost, Book 10 (623-57)
- Mon 4-14 Paradise Lost, Book 11 (659-87)
- Wed 4-16 Paradise Lost, Book 12 (689-710)

Easter Recess

- Mon 4-21 Paradise Regained, Book 1 (721-36)
- Wed 4-23 Paradise Regained, Books 2 and 3 (737-63)
- Fri 4-25 Paradise Regained, Book 4 (764-82)
- Mon 4-28 Samson Agonistes (799-818); final draft of term paper due
- Wed 4-30 Samson Agonistes (818-832)
- Fri 5-2 Samson Agonistes (833-844)

Final exam: Friday, May 9, 1:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Books on Reserve

- Belsey, Catherine. John Milton: Language, Gender, Power (Oxford, 1988).
- Cable, Lana. Carnal Rhetoric (Durham, 1995).
- Danielson, Dennis, ed. The Cambridge Companion to Milton (Cambridge, 1989).
- Empson, William. Milton's God (Rev. ed., Chatto and Windus, 1965).
- Fish, Stanley. How Milton Works (Cambridge, 2001).
- . Surprised by Sin: The Reader in Paradise Lost (New York, 1967).
- Hill, Christopher. The Experience of Defeat (New York, 1984).
- Hughes, Merritt Y. John Milton: Complete Poems and Major Prose (Odyssey, 1957).
- Kerrigan, William. The Sacred Complex (Cambridge, 1983).
- Kranidas, Thomas, ed. New Essays on Paradise Lost (Berkeley, 1969).
- Lewalski, Barbara Kiefer. The Life of John Milton (Oxford, 2000).
- . Milton's Brief Epic (Providence, 1966).
- Lewis, C. S. A Preface to Paradise Lost (Oxford, 1942).
- McColley, Diane Kelsey. Milton's Eve (Urbana, 1983).
- Martz, Louis L., ed. Milton: A Collection of Critical Essays (Englewood Cliffs, 1966).
- Nyquist, Mary, and Margaret Ferguson, eds. Re-Membering Milton (New York, 1988).
- Patterson, Annabel, ed. John Milton (London, 1992).
- Potter, Lois. A Preface to Milton, rev. ed. (London, 1971).
- Schwartz, Regina. Remembering and Repeating (Cambridge, 1988).
- Walker, Julia, ed. Milton and the Idea of Woman (Urbana, 1988).
- Wittreich, Joseph. Feminist Milton (Ithaca, 1988).