

English 335
Spring 2007
MWF 1:00-1:50
Palmer 210

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Office hrs: MW 2:00-3:00,
Th 3:00-4:00, and by appt.

Milton

This course has one primary goal: to familiarize you with the poetry and prose of John Milton. Because Milton's prose and poetry are famously difficult, this course will provide an extended practicum in reading and re-reading closely and carefully. A handful of articles from recent criticism will also help to connect the course to wider dialogues on Milton, his writing, and the tumultuous age in which he lived. The number of topics to discuss in this course is potentially enormous, and would include Milton's revolutionary politics, his belief in toleration for religious dissenters, his attitudes toward books and authorship, his attachment to and struggle with the literary traditions of the classical world, his passionate celebration of married love, and the criticism of women that marks his portraits of Eve and Dalila. But in any case, some of the key words in this course will probably be virtue, trial, temptation, choice, and liberty.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

John Milton: Complete Poems and Major Prose, ed. Merritt Y. Hughes (reprint, 2003)
The Cambridge Companion to Milton, ed. Dennis Danielson (2nd ed., 1999) (CC)

You should also have a copy of the Bible (ideally, the 1611 King James Version).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Two essays of 5-6 pp. each, focused on the interpretation and analysis of primary texts.

One essay of 10-14 pp. involving research into seventeenth-century historical documents and Milton criticism.

A final exam of 5-6 pp. on either Paradise Regained or Samson Agonistes.

Regular participation in class discussions and occasional reading quizzes or informal writing assignments. Prepare for the discussion by taking notes on your observations and questions.

I will also ask you to begin the class discussion at least once during the semester. Your performance on this assignment will be evaluated as part of your participation grade. There will be no need for you to summarize the reading assignment for the day; instead,

use the presentation as a chance to raise questions about the day's reading or to offer an interpretation of it.

Final grades:

First essay (5-6 pp.)	20%
Second essay (5-6 pp.)	20%
Research essay (10-14 pp.)	30%
Final exam (5-6 pp.)	20%
Participation	10%

POLICIES:

Please note the "Expectations and Policies" statement on the back page of the syllabus for the general policies of the English department regarding attendance, deadlines, and plagiarism. Below are more precise explanations of the policies for this class:

Attendance: You may miss three classes during the semester without penalty. This includes illness and sports activities. Missing more than three classes may hurt your final grade. Missing more than six classes is grounds for failing the course. If you feel that you will not be able to satisfy this course requirement, you should schedule a meeting with me as soon as possible.

Tardiness: Repeatedly arriving late to class may harm your participation grade. Please come to class on time with your book. Also, if you come to class without your book, I reserve the right to dismiss you from class.

Grading scale: Essays and the final grade are calculated on scale from A to F, including pluses and minuses in between. We will discuss criteria for papers in class, but in short, a grade of "A" indicates excellent work, a "B" is a good grade, and "C" is not a failing grade.

Late Work: All papers must be turned in on time. 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. One or two rough drafts and reading responses, which are un-graded, will not hurt your grade, but more than two late un-graded assignments may affect your final grade adversely.

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 ASSIGNMENTS

Expect some changes to this schedule. If I need to alter these readings or assignments, I will notify you well in advance. Readings on reserve are marked (R).

W	Jan	10	Introduction to the course
F	Jan	12	Sonnet 7 (76-77); "Ad Patrem" (82-86); <u>The Reason of Church Government</u> , Preface to Book 2 (665-71); Sonnet 19 (168)
M	Jan	15	MLK (No Classes)
W	Jan	17	<u>The Second Defense of the English People</u> (excerpt, 828-32); "On the Morning of Christ's Nativity"
F	Jan	19	"The Passion"; Donne, "Good Friday, 1613: Riding Westward" (handout)
M	Jan	22	Jonson, <u>Pleasure Reconciled to Virtue</u> (R)
W	Jan	24	<u>A Masque Presented at Ludlow Castle</u> ("Comus"); <u>An Apology for Smectymnuus</u> (excerpt, 694-96)
F	Jan	26	<u>A Masque Presented at Ludlow Castle</u>
M	Jan	29	Brown, "Milton's Ludlow Masque" (CC)
W	Jan	31	<u>Lycidas</u>
F	Feb	2	Evans, " <u>Lycidas</u> " (CC); Essay 1 due
M	Feb	5	Sonnets: "On Shakespeare," "On the New Forcers of Conscience," Sonnets 18, 23
W	Feb	7	<u>The Reason of Church Government</u> (excerpts)
F	Feb	9	<u>The Doctrine and Discipline of Divorce</u> (excerpts)
M	Feb	12	<u>Areopagitica</u>
W	Feb	14	<u>Areopagitica</u>
F	Feb	16	<u>Paradise Lost</u> , prefatory material, Book 1
M	Feb	19	<u>Paradise Lost</u> 2.1-628; Essay 2 due
W	Feb	21	<u>Paradise Lost</u> 2.629-1055; Fish, <u>Surprised by Sin</u> (excerpt)
F	Feb	23	<u>Paradise Lost</u> 3.1-415; Danielson, "The Fall and Milton's Theodicy" (CC)
M	Feb	26	<u>Paradise Lost</u> 3.416-4.391
W	Feb	28	<u>Paradise Lost</u> 4.392-1015
F	Mar	2	McColley, "Milton and the Sexes" (CC)
M	Mar	5	<u>Paradise Lost</u> 5
W	Mar	7	<u>Paradise Lost</u> 6
F	Mar	9	Lewalski, "The Genres of <u>Paradise Lost</u> " (CC)

Spring Break

M	Mar	19	<u>Paradise Lost</u> 7
W	Mar	21	<u>Paradise Lost</u> 8
F	Mar	23	Leonard, "Language and Knowledge in <u>Paradise Lost</u> " (CC)
M	Mar	26	<u>Paradise Lost</u> 9
W	Mar	28	<u>Paradise Lost</u> 10
F	Mar	30	Empson, <u>Milton's God</u> (excerpt)
M	Apr	2	<u>Paradise Lost</u> 11
W	Apr	4	<u>Paradise Lost</u> 12
F	Apr	6	Easter Break
M	Apr	9	<u>Paradise Regained</u>
W	Apr	11	<u>Paradise Regained</u>
F	Apr	13	<u>Paradise Regained</u> ; Research essay due
M	Apr	16	Fish, "Things and Actions Indifferent" (R)
W	Apr	18	<u>Samson Agonistes</u>
F	Apr	20	<u>Samson Agonistes</u>
M	Apr	23	<u>Samson Agonistes</u>
W	Apr	25	Fish, "Spectacle and Evidence in <u>Samson Agonistes</u> " (R)
F	Apr	27	URCAS (No Classes)

Final Exam: Due Friday, May 4, at 5 pm