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ENGL 335-01, milton, Spring 2005

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English 335
Spring 2005
MWF 2:00-2:50
Clough 102

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Office hrs: MWF 10:00-10:50,
Th 2:00-3:15, & by appt.

Milton

This course has one primary goal: to familiarize you with the poetry and prose of John Milton, his ideas, and the tumultuous age he lived in. Because Milton's prose and poetry are famously difficult, this course will also provide an extended practicum in reading and re-reading closely and carefully. A handful of readings from recent criticism will help to connect the course to wider dialogues on Milton and his writing. 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. Regardless of the specific topic, however, key words in our discussion will be virtue, trial, temptation, choice, and liberty.

Required text: The Riverside Milton, ed. Roy Flannagan
(You should also have a copy of the Bible.)

Course requirements:

Three essays, two of 6 pp., one of 8 pp. The shorter essays will each make up 20% of the final grade. The longer essay will make up 25%. The shorter essays will focus on your interpretation and analysis of primary texts. The longer essay, which will probably be on Paradise Lost, will also ask you to incorporate literary criticism into your argument.

Essays are due at 5 pm at my office in Palmer Hall. You can take a one-week extension on any one of your essays. After this, 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.

A take-home final, which will involve writing an essay on Paradise Regained or Samson Agonistes. This will make up 20% of the final grade.

Class participation, including occasional reading quizzes and taking responsibility with a classmate for starting class discussion once during the semester, which will make up 15% of the final grade.

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. I make no distinction between unavoidable absences (like extracurricular activities) and avoidable absences (like sleeping in). 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.

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.

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.

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.

On leaving the classroom: Go to the bathroom or get a drink of water before class, if you think you might need to do either of these things. While I understand that an emergency might force you to leave the classroom, it is distracting when people walk in and out of the room during class.

Schedule of Assignments

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

W	Jan	12	Introductions
F	Jan	14	Sonnet 19 (255); Sonnet 7 (85); <u>The Reason of Church Government</u> , Preface to Book 2 (920-25); Letter to a Friend (1049-50)
M	Jan	17	No class (MLK)
W	Jan	19	“On the Morning of Christ’s Nativity”
F	Jan	21	“The Passion”; Donne, “Good Friday, 1613: Riding Westward” (handout)

M	Jan	24	<u>Lycidas</u>
W	Jan	26	Jonson, <u>Pleasure Reconciled to Virtue</u> (R); <u>A Mask</u>
F	Jan	28	<u>A Mask</u>
M	Jan	31	<u>A Mask</u> ;
W	Feb	2	Critical essay (TBA) (R)
F	Feb	4	Milton's "autobiography" in prose; Essay 1 due
M	Feb	7	Milton's "autobiography," continued
W	Feb	9	<u>The Doctrine and Discipline of Divorce</u>
F	Feb	11	Critical essay (TBA) (R)
M	Feb	14	<u>Areopagitica</u>
W	Feb	16	<u>Areopagitica</u>
F	Feb	18	Critical essay (TBA) (R)
M	Feb	21	The Civil War; Film: <u>Cromwell</u> (1970)
W	Feb	23	<u>Paradise Lost</u>
F	Feb	25	<u>Paradise Lost</u>
M	Feb	28	<u>Paradise Lost</u> ; Essay 2 due
W	Mar	2	<u>Paradise Lost</u>
F	Mar	4	<u>Paradise Lost</u>

Spring Recess

M	Mar	14	<u>Paradise Lost</u>
W	Mar	16	Critical essay (TBA) (R)
F	Mar	18	<u>Paradise Lost</u>
M	Mar	21	<u>Paradise Lost</u>
W	Mar	23	<u>Paradise Lost</u>

Easter Recess

M	Mar	28	<u>Paradise Lost</u>
W	Mar	30	Critical essay (TBA) (R)
F	Apr	1	<u>Paradise Lost</u>
M	Apr	4	<u>Paradise Lost</u>
W	Apr	6	Critical essay (TBA) (R)
F	Apr	8	<u>Paradise Lost</u>

M	Apr	11	<u>Paradise Regained</u>
W	Apr	13	<u>Paradise Regained</u>
F	Apr	15	Stanley Fish, “Things and Actions Indifferent” (R)
M	Apr	18	<u>Paradise Regained</u> ; Essay 3 due
W	Apr	20	<u>Samson Agonistes</u>
F	Apr	22	<u>Samson Agonistes</u>
M	Apr	25	<u>Samson Agonistes</u>
W	Apr	27	Wrap-up

Final exam: **Take-home exam**

Department of English Expectations and Policies

A college course is more than simply a set of assignments; it is an intellectual process, one which requires active engagement from beginning to end in order to achieve its intended results. With this in mind, the Department of English has formulated a number of expectations and the policies that support them. If you have questions about how these policies relate to the syllabus for a particular course, you should address them to the instructor.

Attendance: The success of a course depends to a significant extent upon the presence of students alert and prepared to address the subject under discussion. Unavoidable absences should be discussed with the instructor, ideally before they occur. Excessive absences will result in a lowering of grade, in some cases to an F.

Deadlines: Writing assignments, tests, etc., are carefully scheduled as stages toward the fulfilment of the course's goals and cannot be indefinitely deferred without frustrating those goals. Brief extensions for good reasons may be permissible with the instructor's prior approval; otherwise, late assignments will be penalized and may result in their not being accepted for credit.

Submission of all work: All major assignments are integral to the goals of the course. Failure to complete any major assignment will result in a grade of F for the course.

Intellectual honesty: All work is assumed to be the student's own and produced exclusively for the course in which it is submitted. Papers written for one course, even if revised, are not to be submitted in another without the instructor's prior approval. Borrowing of ideas or language from other sources (including published material, other student papers, the internet or other electronic resources, etc.) must be carefully documented. Students are advised against posting their work on the internet since doing so may lead to suspicion of plagiarism. Students are advised to maintain drafts of their work to verify its originality. Cases of suspected plagiarism will be referred to the Honor Council, and the student if convicted will receive a grade of F in the course in addition to sanctions assigned by the Council. Carelessness in documenting sources, even if not technically plagiarism, will be penalized as the instructor deems appropriate. If you are uncertain about how or whether to document sources, consult your teacher.