

Milton: Poetry and Prose

Schedule of Readings

- Fri. Aug. 23 — Introductory
Mon. Aug. 26 — Phillips, *Life of Milton* (pp. 1025-37)
Wed. Aug. 28 — Aubrey, *Collections* (pp. 1021-25); Anonymous, *Life of Milton* (pp. 1038-44)
Fri. Aug. 30 — “How soon hath time” (pp. 76-77); “When I consider” (p. 168); “To Cyriack Skinner” (p. 170)
Mon. Sept. 2 — LABOR DAY
Wed. Sept. 4 — Elegy VI (pp. 50-53); *Epitaphium Damonis* (pp. 132-39); Second Prologue (pp. 602-4)
Fri. Sept. 6 — *Ad Patrem* (pp. 82-86)
Mon. Sept. 9 — *A Mask* (pp. 89-114)
Wed. Sept. 11 — *A Mask*, cont.
Fri. Sept. 13 — *A Mask*, cont.
Mon. Sept. 16 — “Lycidas” (pp. 120-25)
Wed. Sept. 18 — “Lycidas,” cont.
Fri. Sept. 20 — Review and catch-up
Mon. Sept. 23 — *Reason of Church Government* (pp. 665-71); *Apology for Smectymnuus* (pp. 693-95: “I had my time . . .”)
Wed. Sept. 25 — *Doctrine and Discipline of Divorce* (pp. 696-706: “. . . it was instituted”)
Fri. Sept. 27 — *Doctrine and Discipline of Divorce* (pp. 706-15: “For all sense . . .”)
Mon. Sept. 30 — *Second Defense of the English People* (pp. 823-38: “Let us now . . .”)
Wed. Oct. 2 — *Areopagitica* (pp. 717-28: “. . . some sort usefully”)
Fri. Oct. 4 — *Areopagitica* (pp. 728-38: “Good and evil . . . thralldom upon learning”)
Mon. Oct. 7 — *Areopagitica* (pp. 738-49: “That this is not . . .”)
Wed. Oct. 9 — Review and catch-up
Fri. Oct. 11 — MIDTERM, Part 1
Mon. Oct. 14 — MIDTERM, Part 2
Wed. Oct. 16 — MIDTERM, Part 3
Fri. Oct. 18 — HOMECOMING
Mon. Oct. 21 — *Tenure of Kings and Magistrates* (pp. 750-57: “. . . to go by”; pp. 766-67: “But what need . . . the public peace”)
Wed. Oct. 23 — *The Christian Doctrine* (pp. 904-5: “Though there be . . . good or bad”; pp. 915-16: “From what has been said . . . not the evil spirit”; p. 937: “Besides . . . of the schools”; p. 939: “In the first place . . . in all things”; p. 956: “Hence it follows . . . not the supreme God”; p. 968: “If it be . . . in all things”; p. 1003: “Christ himself . . . species of fornication”)
Fri. Oct. 25 — Review and catch-up
Mon. Oct. 28 — *Paradise Regained*, Book I
Wed. Oct. 30 — *Paradise Regained*, Book II
Fri. Nov. 1 — *Paradise Regained*, Book III

Mon. Nov. 4 — *Paradise Regained*, Book IV
Wed. Nov. 6 — Review and catch-up
Fri. Nov. 10 — Review and catch-up; EARLY PAPER TOPICS DUE
Mon. Nov. 11 — VETERANS DAY
Wed. Nov. 13 — *Samson Agonistes*, Preface & ll. 1-605
Fri. Nov. 15 — *Samson Agonistes*, ll. 606-1064
Mon. Nov. 18 — *Samson Agonistes*, ll. 1065-1510; EARLY PAPERS DUE & ALL PAPER TOPICS DUE
Wed. Nov. 20 — THANKSGIVING
Fri. Nov. 22 — THANKSGIVING
Mon. Nov. 25 — *Samson Agonistes*, ll. 1511-1758
Wed. Nov. 27 — Review and catch-up; ALL PAPERS DUE
Fri. Nov. 29 — Review and catch-up
Mon. Dec. 2 — FINAL, Part 1; EARLY PAPER REWRITES DUE
Wed. Dec. 4 — FINAL, Part 2

Course Objectives

This course aims to provide students with an in-depth introduction to the life and work of John Milton, whose *Paradise Lost* is generally acknowledged to be the greatest poem in the English language. Milton's radical views on divorce, censorship, and regicide, as well as his unorthodox theological beliefs, will be considered in both a psychological and a political context. Above all, the course seeks to enhance students' skills of close reading and critical thinking. The in-class examinations and five-page term paper will ask students to demonstrate analytic and writing abilities commensurate with an upper-division English course.

Course Requirements & Evaluation Criteria

The course grade will be based on the following criteria: midterm (25%), final exam (25%), one paper (40%), and class participation (10%), though I reserve the right to adjust these percentages in a student's favor if it seems warranted. The midterm will consist of three parts: (1) identification and commentary on five passages (25 points); (2) extended textual commentary (25 points); (3) an essay on a choice of topics (25 points). The noncumulative final will include only the identifications and essay sections. Part 1 is closed-book and closed-note; the other parts are open-book and open-note. Extra credit will be given on one of the exams to students who can demonstrate that they have voted in the presidential election this year.

Papers must follow the guidelines of the Style Sheet and be limited to five pages. At least one week before the papers are due, students must email me a one-paragraph thesis statement. I will then either tell you to go ahead or ask for further clarification before you proceed. *No outside sources may be used without my advance permission.* Early papers will be returned the following week with my comments and a grade. They may then be rewritten for a new grade. *Attendance will be taken starting in the first class, and each absence over five per semester may result in a lowering of your course grade by one-half a letter.* The one required course book, Milton's *Complete Poetry and Major Prose*, edited by Merritt Hughes, has been ordered at the UF Bookstore.

Students with Disabilities

The Disability Resource Center in the Dean of Students Office provides information and support regarding accommodations for students with disabilities in the classroom. Staff will assist any student who registers as having a disability. Official documentation is required to determine eligibility for appropriate accommodations. For more information about Student Disability Services, see: <http://www.ufl.edu/disability/>