Description

Students in ENG 442 read and discuss Milton’s poetry (and possibly some of his prose). Students will become acquainted with Milton’s political and literary careers and the issues to which he devotes particular concern. Students will leave the course having read extensively from the works of one of the major writers of the western tradition and will be able to generate their own arguments about interpreting the ethical, political, and religious content in Milton’s work. There will be weekly readings, in addition to which students will be asked to perform one close reading exercise and 2 essays (see “assignments” below).

The course meets Mondays and Wednesdays from 5-6:20 pm in 276 Lokey Education Building.

Contact information for Prof. Bovilsky:
Office: PLC 246  
Email: bovilsky@uoregon.edu  
Office hours: M 2-3 and Tues 12-2 or by appointment

Required Text

Oxford Authors John Milton, ed. Orgel and Goldberg (available in the Duckstore)

All additional readings will be available on e-reserves or in handouts.

M Jan 3  Introduction

W Jan 5  Early lyrics
         “At a Solemn Music”; “On Shakespeare”; Sonnets 2-5; “Canzone”; “Lycidas”; “A Masque…Presented at Ludlow Castle” [Comus];

M Jan 10  CLASS 3 TO BE RESCHEDULED

Class 3  Prose
         Areopagitica
W Jan 12 Epic!
Paradise Lost, Book 1; Stanley Fish, Surprised By Sin 1.i-ii

M Jan 17 Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday: No Class

T Jan 18 *Close reading exercise due, 3 pm*

W Jan 19 PL, Book 2; William Empson, Milton’s God, Chapter 1, 2, 7 (selections)

M Jan 24 PL, Book 3; Sonnet 16: “When I consider how my light is spent”; Jonathan Goldberg, “Dating Milton”

W Jan 26 PL, Book 4; Surprised By Sin 5.ii-iii

M Jan 31 PL, Book 5; Milton’s God, Chapter 4

W Feb 2 PL, Book 6

M Feb 7 PL, Book 7

W Feb 9 PL, Book 8; Surprised By Sin 6

Th Feb 10 *Paper due, 3 pm*

M Feb 14 PL, Book 9

W Feb 16 PL, Book 10; Sonnet 19: “Methought I saw my late espousèd saint”

M Feb 21 PL, Book 11

W Feb 23 PL, Book 12

Late verse

M Feb 28 Paradise Regained, Books 1-2

W Mar 2 PR, Books 3-4


W Mar 9

F Mar 11 *Final paper due, 3 pm*
COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Participation in discussion is strongly encouraged.

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory; more than three unexcused absences will result in your final grade being lowered as follows. Four unexcused absences will lower your grade two-thirds of a full letter grade (A- becomes B); five will lower your grade one full letter grade (A- becomes B-). Six or more unexcused absences will mean a failing grade.

Assignments

One close reading exercise (2-3 pp); two papers (4-6 pp).

Assignments must be typed in 12-point font, be double spaced, and have reasonable margins (1 inch is generally standard; greater than 1.25 inch will not be accepted). You may work from MLA or Chicago format: just be consistent.

Please proofread and revise your written work. Extensive sloppiness and mechanical errors will result in a lower grade.

Late assignments lose one letter grade per day, including weekends and holidays. You may request an extension if the paper is due more than 72 hours (3 days) later, and the earlier the better: extensions are not guaranteed. In case of a looming or unexpected disaster, consideration will be given if you keep me in the loop and communicate in advance. Stay in touch.

No incompletes will be granted except in case of documented emergency.

GRADERS

A final grade of C or better in the course is required for English major credit. Final grades are based on papers and exams.

Final grades are assessed according to the following base rubric (**but see below**):

  8% Critical Summary (your choice: due the day we complete the reading)
  15% Close Reading assignment (2-3 pp, due Tues, Jan. 18)
  35% Paper 1 (4-6 pp, due Th, Feb. 10)
  42% Final Paper (5-6 pp, due F, March 11)

**I may choose to alter the above proportions to respond to your individual situation. For instance, I may skew percentages to reward improvement over the course of the term. You can also raise your grade through class participation – contributing usefully to class discussion and to dialogue with your peers, asking questions, paying attention.**
PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in this course or at this university. All work submitted in this course must be your own and be written exclusively for this course. The use of sources (ideas, quotations, paraphrases) must be properly documented. This includes ideas you get from your classmates (discussion and kicking ideas around is encouraged, so long as you document where discussion with a peer impacted your argument) and ideas you get from websites as well as books and other media. See the library website (under “guides”) for citation practices. You are not allowed to cut and paste from internet sites into your paper.

N.B. Most internet content on Milton aimed at students is not written at the college level. Taking from this work, even in the case that you are not caught, often results in a lower grade.

Academic dishonesty will result in an automatic failing grade for this course. Definitions of cheating and plagiarism are available in the “Student Conduct Code” section of the Student Life website (http://studentlife.uoregon.edu); please familiarize yourself with these if you are not clear on what constitutes cheating or plagiarism. You are also welcome to contact me if you have any questions about these definitions. I am very happy to talk to you about this!

If you are having trouble writing a paper or understanding what I am looking for, please contact me. I do not expect that you already know how to do what I am teaching you. Extra help is always available. There’s nothing wrong with getting something wrong – sometimes it takes mistakes to learn, and this is not something to panic about. However, if you take ideas from elsewhere and pass them off as your own, you learn nothing – so the next paper will therefore be no easier – and risk extreme academic penalties.

ACCOMMODATIONS

All appropriate accommodations will be provided for students with documented disabilities. If you have a documented disability and require accommodation, you must meet with or contact me by Friday, January 14. I assume that you will also meet with the Office of Disabilities Services, which will help provide needed accommodations.