

English 147
Milton
Spring 2016
Department of English and Comparative Literature
San Jose State University

Instructor:	Professor Shannon Miller
Office Location:	FOB 103
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Email:	Shannon.Miller@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	Tuesday 1:30-2:30; Thursday 11-11:50 am; by appointment
Class Meeting Time:	T/Th 12:00 - 1:15 pm
Class Meeting Place:	BBC 121

Course Description:

John Milton is arguably the most significant poet in the British literary tradition, and certainly the author of one of the greatest poetic epics ever written. While this epic, Paradise Lost, will feature centrally in the course, we will also read Milton's significant poetry that leads up to that epic, the major poems that follow the publication of Paradise Lost, and Milton's influential prose that he produced throughout his life. In addition to considering the workings of his poetry, this course will ground you in the turbulent times of England's seventeenth century, a period that saw a civil war, the trial and beheading of a king, and an astonishing political experiment in which Milton was himself a major player. A controversial figure at mid-century, Milton was considered blasphemous for his support of divorce and a regicide (King killer) for his involvement in the English Civil War. Issues of gender hierarchy, God's plan and rules, and political organization will feature centrally in our discussions.

Program Learning Goals and Student Learning Outcomes:

Students shall:

- 1) demonstrate the ability to read closely in a variety of forms, styles, structures, and modes, and articulate the value of close reading in the study of literature, creative writing, or rhetoric.
- 2) show familiarity with major literary works, genres, periods, and critical approaches to British, American, and World Literature.

- 3) write clearly, effectively, and creatively, and adjust writing style appropriately to the content, the context, and nature of the subject.
- 4) develop and carry out research projects, and locate, evaluate, organize, and incorporate information effectively.
- 5) articulate the relations among culture, history, and texts.

Course Learning Goals and Student Learning Outcomes:

The class shall:

- 1) introduce you to Milton's poetry and prose, and develop your ability to read Milton's language in, first, a competent, and, later in the semester, a sophisticated manner
- 2) introduce you to the different genres of poetry and style of prose in which Milton wrote, and the traditions that influenced him
- 3) further your ability to formulate a clear, focused paper argument that combines a sophisticated understanding of texts with close, textual readings
- 4) provide you with experience in assessing and summarizing critical essays on Milton's poetry
- 5) provide you with a background in Milton's era, its politics, and the effect of these ideas and events on Milton's writings

Assignments: Weightings for Course Grade

Assignment	Learning Objectives	Weight
Paper #1 (4-5 pages)	1, 2, 3	20%
Paper #2 (9-12 pages)	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	30%
Article Summary	1, 3, 4	5%
Team Presentation	3, 5	10%
Final Exam	1, 2, 3, 5	15%
Participation/In-class assignments/group work	1, 2, 5	20%
	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	100%

Assignments:

For this course, you will be writing two papers, making one class presentation in a team, provide one article summary, which you will distribute to the class, and take a final exam. Your first, short (5-6 pages) paper will explore Milton's language in detail. The class presentation will be an exploration of a historical topic of direct relevance to Milton's writings and/or period. The article summary will acquaint you with literary criticism on Milton's writings. In the long paper, you will draw together your experience dealing with Milton's language, historical information on the period, and secondary materials (criticism) on Milton to produce a longer (9-12 page) research paper. You will also complete a final exam that will allow you to look back on the main themes and developments in Milton's writing. Participation is expected in this small class and it will be key to helping you develop our understanding and interpretation of

Milton's poetry; it counts for 1/5 of your grade for this course. The class is meant to give you the intellectual tools necessary to successfully complete the class assignments. In order to participate, you must be present. Absences, then, will have a direct effect on the grade you can receive for participation. My intention is that this will be a highly interactive, discussion-oriented course.

Reading and Assignment Schedule

Week	Date	Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	January 28	Introduction: Milton, his life, his times, his poetry
2	February 2	Christian Poet "Ode on the Morning of Christ's Nativity" (pp. 18-30); "The Passion" (pp. 31-33) (Lewalski, Chapter 2)
	February 4	Courtier Poet <u>Comus</u> (ll. 1-658) (Lewalski, pp. 51-70, 76-81)
3	February 9	<u>Comus</u> (ll. 659-end)
	February 11	Preparing as an Epic Poet "Lycidas," Sonnet 7 (p. 144) (Lewalski, pp. 70-75; 81-86)
4	February 16	Political Poet Sonnets 8 (p. 145), 10 11, 12 (p. 147-49), "On the New Forcers of Conscience" (p. 164), Sonnets 18, 19, 21, 22, 23 (pp. 155-163) (Lewalski, Chapter 7)
	February 18	Epic Poet at last <u>Paradise Lost</u> , Book 1 (Lewalski, Chapter 11)
5	February 23	Class Cancelled
	February 25	<u>Paradise Lost</u> , Book 1 (Lewalski, Chapter 12)
6	March 1	<u>Paradise Lost</u> , Book 2; "Eikonoklastes," Preface (1059-66), Chapter 1 (EEBO) (Lewalski, Chapter 8)

	March 3	<u>Paradise Lost</u> , Book 2, "Tenure of Magistrates," pp. 1024-1036 (Lewalski, Chapter 13)
7	March 8 March 10	<u>Paradise Lost</u> , Book 3, "Christian Doctrine," Preface, Chapter 1, 2, 4, 5 (pp. 1140-1152, 1159-1181) <u>Paradise Lost</u> , Book 4
8	March 15 March 17	<u>Paradise Lost</u> , Book 4; Froula, "When Eve Reads Milton" (available on Blackboard) <i>Paper #1 Due</i> <u>Paradise Lost</u> , Book 5, "Areopagitica," pp. 927-951
9	March 22 March 24	<u>Paradise Lost</u> , Book 6 <u>Paradise Lost</u> , Book 7
10	April 5 April 7	<u>Paradise Lost</u> , Book 8 <u>Paradise Lost</u> , Book 8
11	April 12 April 14	<u>Paradise Lost</u> , Book 9 <u>Paradise Lost</u> , Book 9
12	April 19 April 21	<u>Paradise Lost</u> , Book 10 <u>Paradise Lost</u> , Book 10; Doctrine. . .of Divorce, "To the Parliament," pp. 857-865, Chapters 1-7, 9-10, 13-14, pp. 869-887 (Lewalski, Chapter 6) <i>DUE: Proposal for Long Paper</i>
13	April 26 April 28	<u>Paradise Lost</u> , Book 11-12 Poetic Retrenchment? <u>Paradise Regained</u> , Book 1

14	May 3	<u>Paradise Regained</u> , Books 2-3 <i>DUE: Annotated Bibliography for Final Project</i>
	May 5	<u>Paradise Regained</u> , Book 4
15	May 10	A Defeated Man? <u>Samson Agonistes</u> , (ll. 1-1060) “Of that sort of Dramatic Poem” (pp. 707-709); Sonnet 19 (p. 157)
	May 12	<u>Samson Agonistes</u> (ll. 1061-end)
FINAL	PAPER DUE	Monday, May 16th 12 noon
FINAL	EXAM	Friday, May 20th 9:45 am - 12:00 pm

Required Texts:

John Milton, The Complete Poetry and Essential Prose of John Milton, eds. William Kerrigan, John Rumrich, and Stephen Fallon. Modern Library. (ISBN 978-0679642534)
Additional Prose Selections available on EEBO (Early English Books Online)

Recommended Texts:

Barbara Lewalski, The Life of John Milton: A Critical Biography. Wiley-Blackwell.
(ISBN 978-1405106252)

Classroom Protocol:

All readings are to be completed before class time, and students are to come prepared to discuss. To facilitate discussion (in addition to assigned articles and class presentations), please read actively, using margins of your texts, a separate notebook, or even a computer tablets to mark interesting passages, confusions, inspirations about the text. Please silence cellphones before class; if an emergency situation requires that they remain on, consult with the professor.

Course Policies and Rules:

- Late work (NOT EXAMS) will be penalized 1/3 of a grade for each day that it is late. Each student will be allowed 2 days of a **grace period** on a late paper (this can be spread over 2 papers). I will accept a paper up to two weeks after the deadline.
- In order for you to pass the course, you must turn in all assignments and take the final exam.
- Attendance and participation in this course are expected. If you do not attend the class, you will not pass it because you will receive a zero for participation and for all other in-class related activities.

•All work that you hand in for this course must be your own. Any cheating or plagiarism in this course will result in IMMEDIATE failure of the course and charges of academic dishonesty brought against the student. See University Policy on Academic Integrity below.

Library Liaison

Contact Toby Matoush via email: Toby.Matoush@sjsu.edu, or phone: (408) 808-2096 if you have library research questions that have not been answered in class.

University Policies:

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. More details about student workload can be found in [University Policy S12-3](#) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>.

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the current semester's [Catalog Policies](#) section at <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html>. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the [current academic calendar](#) web page located at http://www.sjsu.edu/academic_programs/calendars/academic_calendar/. The [Late Drop Policy](#) is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/>. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes. Information about the latest changes and news is available at the [Advising Hub](#) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/>.

Academic integrity

Your commitment as a student to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. The [University's Academic Integrity policy](#), located at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/S07-2.htm>, requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The [Student Conduct and Ethical Development website](#) is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/>.

Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person's ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified as a group project and/or presentation. If you would like to include your assignment or any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU's Academic Policy S07-2 requires approval of instructors. Because you will be asked to revise a paper from another class in English 193, you will not need to seek approval from your previous instructor to complete this assignment of revising a previous paper.

Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

[University Policy S12-7](#), <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf>, requires students to obtain instructor's permission to record the course.

- “Common courtesy and professional behavior dictate that you notify someone when you are recording him/her. You must obtain the instructor's permission to make audio or video recordings in this class. Such permission allows the recordings to be used for your private, study purposes only. The recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material.”

- It is suggested that the greensheet include the instructor's process for granting permission, whether in writing or orally and whether for the whole semester or on a class by class basis.
- In classes where active participation of students or guests may be on the recording, permission of those students or guests should be obtained as well.
- "Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor generated material for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent."

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. [Presidential Directive 97-03](http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf) at http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the [Accessible Education Center](http://www.sjsu.edu/aec) (AEC) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aec> to establish a record of their disability.

Accommodation to Students' Religious Holidays

San José State University shall provide accommodation on any graded class work or activities for students wishing to observe religious holidays when such observances require students to be absent from class. It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor, in writing, about such holidays before the add deadline at the start of each semester. If such holidays occur before the add deadline, the student must notify the instructor, in writing, at least three days before the date that he/she will be absent. It is the responsibility of the instructor to make every reasonable effort to honor the student request without penalty, and of the student to make up the work missed. See [University Policy S14-7](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-7.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S14-7.pdf>.