

**Carleton University
Fall 2017
Department of English**

**ENGL 4301A: Studies in Renaissance Lit.
*Milton***

Prerequisite(s): fourth-year standing or permission of the department

Mondays, 11:35pm-2.25pm

Classroom: UC 374 (confirm location with Carleton Central)

Professor T. DeCook

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Office: DT 1803

Phone: 613 520 2600 ext. 1367

Office Hours: by appointment

John Milton is one of the most significant figures in English literary history not only because of the poetry he wrote, but also because of his contributions to the religious and political controversies which defined his era. Through engagement with his major poetry and excerpts of important prose works, this course explores Milton's radical engagements with theological, social, and political questions, and the ways these shaped his poetry. We will also consider the particular capacities of his literary activity to explore and transform these various questions.

cuLearn

Announcements and documents pertaining to the course will be posted on cuLearn. Students are fully responsible for reading all course material transmitted here. Information posted to cuLearn will be considered provided to all registered students within 24 hours of posting.

Course Work and Evaluation

Two in-class presentations (including discussion leading): 20% each

Essay: 50%

Participation: 10%

Participation: This course requires that you not only read the required texts for each class, but that you thoroughly engage with those texts. This means that you must come to class with a well thought-out response to the readings, as well as some questions and/or topics for discussion generated by your reading. Commit to contributing at least

one comment or question every class. It is essential that you bring the assigned readings to class, either in electronic or paper form. One missed class results in a 5% deduction from your total grade, two missed classes in a 10% deduction, and three missed classes in an "F."

Presentations: Students will sign up for two presentations on designated readings. Each presentation consists of the formal delivery of a 5-6 page (double-spaced) paper which develops a critical analysis of one or more of Milton's texts. The presentation must not be a mere summary or explication of the reading. Instead, you must focus on a specific topic of significance to the reading, and explore the ways the reading engages the topic. For instance, you might choose to discuss gender relations in *Samson Agonistes*, or to discuss Milton's idea of legitimate marriage in *The Doctrine and Discipline of Divorce*. You must contextualize your discussion, that is, discuss any relevant intellectual and historical backgrounds, including any specific debates in which the reading participates.

After delivering your presentation, you must lead class discussion for 15-20 minutes. You will provoke discussion by posing specific questions about the reading, and/or by directing the class to particularly complex or problematic issues it raises.

This presentation is designed to give students experience delivering a conference paper, and therefore the quality of the presentation style will be taken into account in the grading. Critical here is that you speak slowly and clearly. After you deliver your paper, it must be submitted with a list of works cited.

Final Essay: The essay should be approximately 4000 words. It will be a critical essay on a topic of your choosing which makes an argument about one or more of the course texts, and should engage 3-5 relevant secondary sources. You must set up an appointment to meet with me before the final seminar to discuss your essay.

Classroom Protocols

Audio and visual recording devices are not allowed within the classroom. You are expected to help cultivate a climate of mutual respect for your colleagues. This entails refraining from any activity that will disrupt your colleagues' learning and flourishing. Included here is having conversations with those sitting next to you during class discussion, or interrupting people when they are speaking.

Academic Honesty

Plagiarism – making someone else's work or ideas appear as your own – can happen accidentally. However, inadvertent plagiarism is treated the same as intentional

plagiarism, and the consequences for this infraction are severe: expulsion from and an F in the course and, in some cases, expulsion from the university. For the code outlining plagiarism, see the section on “Instructional Offences” in the Undergraduate Calendar.

You must be extremely vigilant in documenting all of your sources (including the course lectures). Use MLA format for citation. Please note that plagiarism includes recycling your own work used in other courses.

Academic Accommodation

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details see the Student Guide <<http://carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf>>.

Religious obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details see the Student Guide.

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation.

If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable).

After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website < <http://carleton.ca/pmc/> > for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).

Schedule of readings (subject to change)

Sept 11: Introduction

Sept 18: *On the Morning of Christ's Nativity; The Passion; L'Allegro; Il Penseroso; A Maske Presented at Ludlow Castle; Lycidas*

Sept 25: excerpts from *Of Reformation and The Reason of Church Government; The Doctrine and Discipline of Divorce*, excerpts from Book 1

Oct 2: *Areopagitica*; excerpt from *The Tenure of Kings and Magistrates*

Oct 9: Thanksgiving (no class)

Oct 16: *Paradise Lost* (book 1)

Oct 23: Reading week (no class)

Oct 30: *Paradise Lost* (book 2)

Nov 6: *Paradise Lost* (books 3 and 4)

Nov 13: *Paradise Lost* (books 5-8)

Nov 20: *Paradise Lost* (book 9)

Nov 27: *Paradise Lost* (books 10-12)

Dec 4: *Paradise Regained*

Dec 8: *Samson Agonistes*

Required Text

The Complete Poetry and Essential Prose of John Milton, ed. William Kerrigan et al (Modern Library). Available at Haven Books (43 Seneca Street).