

(Spring 2009)

ENGL W4211y  
**MILTON IN CONTEXT**

Professor Julie Crawford  
[jc830@columbia.edu](mailto:jc830@columbia.edu)

Monday and Wednesday 10:35-11:50 a.m. 603 Hamilton Hall

*Office Hours:*

**Monday 4-5:30** in 763 Schermerhorn Ext., (4-3277)

**Wednesday 1:30-3:30** in 613C Philosophy Hall (4-5779), or by appointment.

My mailbox is in the Department of English Office, 602 Philosophy Hall.

This course will look at the major works of John Milton in the context of seventeenth-century English religious, political and cultural events. In addition to reading Milton's shorter poems, major prose (including *Areopagitica*), and the full text of *Paradise Lost*, we will look at the authors and radicals whose activities and writings helped to provide the contexts for Milton's own: poets and polemicists, sectarians and prophets, revolutionaries and regicides.

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

- John Milton, *The Major Works*. Eds. Stephen Orgel and Jonathan Goldberg (Oxford UP, 2003) ISBN13: 9780192804099. Available at Book Culture, 536 W. 112th St. (212) 865-1588
- Supplementary texts on Courseworks.

**RESERVE TEXTS:**

*The following books are on reserve at Butler Library:*

(The first three are particularly highly recommended.)

- Dennis Danielson, ed. *The Cambridge Companion to Milton*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (Cambridge, 1999)
- Stanley Fish, *Surprised by Sin: The Reader in Paradise Lost*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (Harvard, 2003)
- Christopher Hill, *The Century of Revolution, 1603-1714*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (Norton, 1982)
- Christopher Kendrick, ed. *Critical Essays on John Milton* (G.K. Hall, 1995)
- Barbara K. Lewalski, *The Life of John Milton* (Blackwell, 2001)

**RECOMMENDED TEXT:**

*The King James Bible* (1611 edition). You can also look at this and other bibles online through <http://www.biblegateway.com>.

**OTHER USEFUL RESOURCES:**

William B. Hunter, Jr., ed. *A Milton Encyclopedia*, 9 vols. Bucknell UP, 1978-83.

*Oxford English Dictionary*  
*Dictionary of National Biography*

The best Milton website is Professor Thomas Luxon's Milton Reading Room:

<http://www.dartmouth.edu/~milton/>

### **RESPONSIBILITIES:**

1. *Attendance.* You should attend all classes and read all assignments in time to participate in class discussion. You are expected to come to all class sessions; if you cannot be present, please let me know.
2. *Participation.* Response to questions and class discussion are important parts of the course; I will give credit for thoughtful, informed contributions.
3. *Reading.* You must read the assigned texts before we meet. Keep notes while you read (write in your texts; make them your own). ***If it seems that the class is not adequately prepared, I will resort to quizzes.*** The secondary texts are not optional; please read them carefully and thoughtfully.
4. *Downloading and Printing.* You are responsible for downloading and printing the secondary materials (essays, prose, poems, bible verses, images) from the Courseworks website for the appropriate class session.

### **ASSIGNMENTS:**

**\*\*\*Assignments are to be handed in IN CLASS ONLY, at the start of class. Save in extraordinary circumstances, I will accept hard copies only.\*\*\***

1. One (**3-4 pp.**) assignment focusing on a selected word or term and its use in the primary text in which it appears (resources include the *Oxford English Dictionary* [OED] and *Early English Books Online* [EEBO]) (**25%**). **The due date is Wednesday February 25.**
2. One (**5 pp.**) argument-driven close reading of a poem or passage *which we did not discuss in detail in class* (**30%**). **The due dates are Wednesday April 01 for shorter poetry/prose and Monday April 13 for *Paradise Lost*.**
3. Final Exam (**45%**). (There may also be quizzes, see #3 under "Responsibilities.")

The TA for the class is Olivia Moy, olm2107@columbia.edu, and her office hours will be held on Monday 2:45-4 in 301 Philosophy Hall (GSAS Lounge).

If you are unable to get a paper done on time, you must let me know *at least 24 hours before the paper is due*. Late papers will be docked one letter grade per week.

**Note:** All written work must be typed, *double-spaced, paginated*, stapled, and titled. Your name, the course name, and the date should appear on the first page of your essay. *No cover page is necessary*. Sloppiness (typos, poor grammar) will not be tolerated.

Please proofread; running “Spelling and Grammar” is not enough. *Any paper not meeting these standards will be returned ungraded.*

## **Syllabus**

**Note:** I have included two articles on Courseworks, one on “The Age of Milton” and one on “Milton and Puritanism.” Both provide helpful historical and religious background for those not intimately familiar with the period, and should be read early in the course.

### **Wednesday January 21: Introduction**

#### **Monday January 26: Milton’s Sense of Milton’s Career**

“To My Father” (“Ad Patrem”) (134-9); Letter to Charles Diodati (717-718); from *The Reason of Church Government* (1642) (165-72) and *The Second Defence of the English People* (1654) (308-329).

#### **Wednesday January 28: Early Poems**

“On the Morning of Christ’s Nativity, 1629” (3-9)

**IMAGE** Title page *Poems of Mr John Milton, both English and Latin, Compos’d at Several Times. Printed by his True Copies* (1645)

#### **Monday February 02:**

“L’ Allegro” and “Il Penseroso” (22-29)

#### **Wednesday February 04**

Virgil Eclogues 5 and 10, link on Courseworks; “Lycidas” (1637, 1638) (39-43)

**IMAGE** Title page Michael Drayton, *Poly-Olbion* (1622)

**IMAGE** from *Poly-Olbion* (1622): Irish Sea (west England)

**IMAGE** from *Poly-Olbion* (1622): St. Michael’s Mount in Cornwall (south England)

#### **Monday February 09: Patronage**

*A Mask Presented at Ludlow-Castle (Comus)* (perf. 1634, published 1637) (44-72)

**IMAGE** Title page *A Mask Presented at Ludlow Castle* (1637)

**IMAGE** from *Poly-Olbion* (1622): the Severn

#### **Wednesday February 11**

*A Mask Presented at Ludlow-Castle*, cont.

#### **Monday February 16: Milton and the Press**

*Areopagitica* (1644) (236-72)

**IMAGE** Title page from *Areopagitica* (1644)

#### **Wednesday February 18: Milton and the Press II**

Sonnets 11 and 12 (1646) (78-79) and “On the New Forcers of Conscience” (1646) (83)

**IMAGE** Title page *Tetrachordon* (1645)

**IMAGE** Title page Samuel Rutherford, *Divine Right of Church Government* (1645)

**IMAGE** Title page Thomas Edwards *Gangraena* (1646)

#### **Monday February 23: The Tenure of Kings**

*An Agreement of the People* (1647)

Elizabeth Poole, *A Vision* (1648)

*The Charge of the Commons of England Against Charls Stuart* (1648)  
Gerrard Winstanley, *A Declaration from the Poor Oppressed People of England* and *A Letter to the Lord Fairfax* (1649), all on Courseworks

Selections from *The Tenure of Kings and Magistrates* (1649) (273-)

**IMAGE** Title page and woodcut from *Eikon Basilike* (1649)

**IMAGE** Title page for *Eikonoklastes* (1649)

**IMAGE** *Eikonoklastes* with red lettering (not printable)

**IMAGE** Woodcut of the execution of Charles I (1649)

**Wednesday February 25: The Tenure of Revolutionaries**

“On the Lord Gen. Fairfax” (1648) (85)

Andrew Marvell, “An Horation Ode Upon Cromwell’s Return from Ireland” (1650), on Courseworks

“To the Lord General Cromwell” (1652?) (85)

“To Sir Henry Vane” (1652) (86)

**IMAGE** of Cromwell and his victories

**IMAGE** of Colchester Battle

**IMAGE** of Charles I and Fairfax

**IMAGE** of Fairfax in Council

**IMAGE** of Fairfax on horseback

**\*\*FIRST PAPER DUE IN CLASS, at the beginning of class\*\***

**Monday March 02: The Tenure of Revolutionaries II**

Sonnet 15 “On the late Massacher in Piemont” (1655) (80)

*The Readie and Easie Way to Establish a Free Commonwealth* (1660) (330-354)

**Wednesday March 04: On His Blindness**

Sonnet 16 “When I consider how my light is spent” (1652?) (81). See also Sonnet 7

“How soon hath time” (34), and George Herbert, “Love (III),” on Courseworks.

**IMAGE** Title page to *Poems &c. upon Several Occasions* (1673)

**Monday March 09: Paradise Lost**

*Paradise Lost*, Book I

**IMAGE** Prefatory matter to 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of *Paradise Lost* (1674), p. 3, 4, 5

**IMAGE** Title page to *Paradise Lost, A Poem in Twelve Books*, second edition (1674)

**IMAGE** Title page to *Paradise Lost. A Poem in Ten Books*, first edition (1667)

**IMAGE** Title page to *Paradise Lost*, third edition (1678)

**IMAGE** Title page to *Paradise Lost*, fourth edition (1688)

**Wednesday March 11**

*Paradise Lost*, Book II

**MARCH BREAK March 16-20**

**Monday March 23**

*Paradise Lost*, Book III

**Wednesday March 25**

*Paradise Lost*, Book IV

**Monday March 30**

*Paradise Lost*, Book V

**Wednesday April 01**

*Paradise Lost*, Book VI

**\*\*SECOND PAPER (shorter poetry/prose) DUE IN CLASS, at the start of class\*\***

**Monday April 06**

*Genesis* 1-3 (and more), on Courseworks

*Paradise Lost*, Book VII

**Wednesday April 08**

*Paradise Lost*, Book VIII

**Monday April 13**

*Paradise Lost*, Book IX

**\*\*SECOND PAPER (*Paradise Lost*) DUE IN CLASS, at the beginning of class\*\***

**Wednesday April 15**

*Paradise Lost*, Book X

**Monday April 20**

*Paradise Lost*, Book XI

**Wednesday April 22**

*Paradise Lost*, Book XII

**Monday April 27**

*Samson Agonistes* (1671)

**Wednesday April 29**

*Samson Agonistes*, cont.

**Monday May 04: Final Class**

**FINAL EXAM** (date and place TBA)

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**Plagiarism**

Plagiarism consists not only in copying or stealing another person's essay (published or not), but also in neglecting to acknowledge indebtedness for facts, ideas, or expression. *Columbia University requires that any paper containing plagiarized material receive an F.*

All borrowed material must be acknowledged (quoted, footnoted, or otherwise referenced). Students can free themselves from uncertainties in the matter of plagiarism by following these rules:

**1. Direct quotation:**

When you use the exact words of a consulted authority, you must place every quoted word in quotation marks, and attach a footnote or parenthetical reference to each quoted passage. Every footnote or parenthetical reference must identify the source used and give the page number on which the borrowed material can be found. See Pinney's *A Short Handbook and Style Sheet*, pages 42-51; 53-4.

**2. Indirect quotation:**

When paraphrasing the words of a consulted authority, give an exact footnote or parenthetical reference to each summarized passage. Summaries can be introduced by phrases such as “According to...” or “As...suggests.”

**3. General acknowledgment:**

When you make general use of the thoughts, ideas, or information found in another person’s work, attach a footnote.

**4. Bibliography:**

Append a complete list of all authorities that you have consulted (books, periodicals, lectures) to each piece of written work submitted. The authorities should be cited even if you do not make specific reference to them in the paper itself. See Pinney, p. 55.

If you have any further questions about this, please read Pinney, the *MLA Style Manual* or talk to me.