

Fall 2015

## ENGL 4621

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*University of New Orleans*

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# MILTON

## Undergraduate Syllabus for English 4621

### Fall 2015, TH 11:00-12:15, Dr. Shenk

TEXT: William Kerrigan, et al, ed., *The Complete Poetry and All Essential Prose of John Milton*. All reference is to this text, unless otherwise indicated.

<u>Day</u> <u>Date</u>	<u>Reading assigned</u>	<u>Quizzes, Essays</u>
Tues Aug 20	<b>Course Introduction</b> (no readings)	
Thur Aug 25	Audrey, <u>Minutes of the Life of Mr. John Milton</u> , xxiii-xxx --from: <u>The Reason of Church Government</u> , 835-844 --from: <u>The Second Defense of the English People</u> , 1090 (bottom) to	
1096	--from: <u>An Apology for Smectymnus</u> , 835-852 --Also <i>Skim</i> Chronology, xxi-xxii	
Tues Aug 27	Familiar Letters, 765-782	
Tues Sep 1	1 <sup>st</sup> and 7 <sup>th</sup> <i>Prolusions</i> , 785-804	
Thur Sep 3	<i>Of Education</i> , 967ff	QUIZ
<b>Sep 7 Labor Day Holiday</b>		
Tues Sep 8	Judges 13-16, KJV, and all of <i>Samson Agonistes</i> (including introduction)	
Tues Sep 10	Continue discussing <i>Samson Agonistes</i> .	
Tues Sep 15	Early poetry: <i>On the Death of a Fair Infant</i> , 6 <i>In Quintum Novembris</i> (translated), 205 <i>At a Vacation Exercise</i> , 12-15 <i>On the University Carrier</i> , 35 <i>Another on the Same</i> , 36 <i>Ad Patrem</i> (translated), 220 <i>On Shakespeare</i> , 34 <i>At a Solemn Music</i> , 57 <i>On Time</i> , 58 <i>How Soon Hath Time</i> , 144 <i>Upon the Passion</i> , 30 <i>Upon the Circumcision</i> , 60	<b>Essay 1 Assigned &amp; QUIZ</b>
Thur Sep 17	<i>On the Morning of Christ's Nativity</i> , 18ff	
Tues Sep 22	<i>L'Allegro &amp; Il Penseroso</i> , 41ff and 46ff	
Thur Sep 24	More poetry: <i>Elegy VII</i> (tr.) 194ff <i>Lady, that in the prime</i> , 146 <i>Fairfax, whose name</i> , 152 <i>Cromwell, our chief of men</i> , 153 <i>When I consider how my light is spent</i> , 157	

Tues Sep 29 Thur Oct 1	<i>Comus</i> , 61ff <i>Lycidas</i> , 99ff		<b>Essay #1 Due</b>
Tues Oct 6	More on <i>Lycidas</i> ; also: <i>Avenge O Lord</i> , 155 <i>Lawrence of Virtuous Father</i> , 158 <i>Cyriack, whose grandsire</i> , 159 <i>Cyriack, this three years day</i> , 160 <i>Vane, young in yeares</i> , 154 <i>Methought I Saw</i> , 163		QUIZ
Thur Oct 8	<b>Midterm Examination</b>		<b>Midterm</b>
Tues Oct 13 Thur Oct 15-16	<i>Areopagitica</i> , 997-1024 (& introduction) <b>Mid-semester break</b>		
Tue, Oct 20	<i>Paradise Lost</i> , Book I (begins on p. 293 of Kerrigan; you are also responsible for the Kerrigan introduction to PL, 251-82)		
Thur Oct 22	More on Book 1		
Tues Oct 27 Thur Oct 29	Book 2 Book 3	GRAD	QUIZ; & <b>Essay 2 Assigned</b>
Tues Nov 3 Thur Nov 5	Book 4 Book 5		
Tues Nov 10 Thur Nov 12	Book 6 & 7 Book 8	GRAD	<b>Essay #2 Due</b> QUIZ
Tues Nov 17 Thur Nov 19	Book 9 (the center of the poem) Book 9 & 10		
Tues Nov 24 Thur Nov 26-27	Books 11 & 12 <b>Thanksgiving Vacation</b>		<b>Essay 3 Assigned</b>
Tues Dec. 1	<i>Paradise Regained</i> (and introduction)		<b>Essay 3 Due &amp;</b> QUIZ
Thur Dec. 3	More on <i>Paradise Regained</i> (= last class day)		
Final Examination - 10 a.m.-12 noon, Tuesday, Dec. 8 <sup>th</sup> .			

## Dr. Shenk's Milton Course

**Goals:** Primarily to gain a good understanding of the *poetry* of John Milton, with a side glance at some of his prose. In particular, the goals of the course include student learning outcomes, as follows.

**Student Learning Outcomes:** By the end of this course, students will:

- \* have become acquainted with John Milton's astonishing literary career.
- \* understand many minor poetical works of Milton's.
- \* have read and understood larger themes of Milton's major poems, especially *Samson Agonistes*, *Paradise Lost*, and *Paradise Regained*.
- \* understand much of the imagery employed in the poetry.
- \* be able to identify the character and actions of the various epic characters (such as Satan, God, Adam, Eve, Samson, Dalila, Comus, and Milton himself as a character).
- \* be able to state some major issues of Miltonic criticism.
- \* understand the major rhetorical arguments and rhetorical techniques used by characters in *Comus*, *Samson Agonistes*, *Paradise Lost*, and *Paradise Regained*.
- \* be able to distinguish between sophistry as opposed to noble rhetoric in those same arguments.
- \* appreciate some of Milton's improvements to standard epic features and themes;
- \* be able to make well supported arguments as to Milton's comparative worth as an English poet.
- \* gain ability in writing coherent essays with pertinent and accurate reference to and correct quotation of literature.

**Methods:** Lecture and discussion, with essays, midterm and final exam (and occasional quizzes).

**Instructor:** Dr. Robert Shenk, LA 191; 280-5415 (w); 1-985-624-8769 (h); and [rshenk@uno.edu](mailto:rshenk@uno.edu). Feel free to call or email me if you have questions about the reading or writing assignments.

**Office Hours:** 1:30-3:00 TH, LA 191 (note that I sometimes have meetings between 12:30 and 1:30 TH), and Monday 10:00-12:00. Before class at 11:00 TH may also be an option, though you'll have to arrange this ahead of time. Actually, though, I'll be on campus most days except my research day, so usually you will be able to find me at my office or in the department offices between 9:00 and 2:00.

**Assignments & Examinations:**

**Quizzes.** A series of six announced quizzes (and perhaps a pop quiz or two) will help ensure you keep up with the reading, and will also help keep examinations focused on more important things. These quizzes will focus on simple knowledge of the text--who does what to whom; what happens or what does the poetry say; when, where and how events occur, the nature of the argument, etc. The quizzes will last about ten-fifteen minutes apiece.

**Midterm** (one hour, 15 minutes) and **Final Examination** (two hours). These exams will include some short answer, but mainly essay questions, and will focus on the meaning of things--the imagery, characters, plots and themes in the poetry; the themes, imagery, and rhetorical schemes of the few prose works we read, etc. I will provide guides to these examinations ahead of time.

### **Writing Assignments, Other Assignments, and Grading**

Essays. Three essays of some 5-6 pages apiece. You will have some choice of topic for each essay.

**Additional Graduate Student Assignment:** By university policy, graduate students in a 4000/5000-level course must be assigned one or more additional student learning outcomes, and in this course we will ask them to teach particular poems or other literary subjects (undergraduates will not have these assignments). Such graduate assignments are discussed in the ENGL 5621 syllabus, the graduate syllabus for this course.

Undergraduate Grading: By spacing out requirements and making them incremental as outlined above, I hope to provide you a good understanding of what you have to do, of what I expect, of how you are doing, and of what happens next. Although grading is a *judgment call* (not a matter of mathematics), weights will be approximately as follows:

Each paper:	15 % x 3 = 45%
Midterm:	15 %
Quizzes, combined:	10 %
Final exam	<u>30 %</u>
	100%

[An additional assignment will change this grading proportion for graduate students somewhat; see the graduate syllabus for ENGL 5621.]

**Attendance:** Regular attendance is particularly important, given the nature of the material we'll be covering. Missing more than two classes unexcused will be grounds for reduction of the course grade.

Academic Integrity: Academic integrity is fundamental to the process of learning and evaluating academic performance. The university policy (that we will adhere to in this class) is that academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following: cheating, plagiarism, tampering with academic records and examinations, falsifying identity, and being an accessory to acts of academic dishonesty. Refer to the Student Code of Conduct for further information. The Code is available online at <http://www.studentaffairs.uno.edu>.

### Disability Services:

It is university policy (to which we will adhere) to provide, on a flexible and individualized basis, reasonable accommodations to students who have disabilities that may affect their ability to participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. Students with disabilities should

contact the Office of Disability Services as well as their instructors to discuss their individual needs for accommodations. For more information, please go to <http://www.ods.uno.edu>.