Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.uno.edu/syllabi

This is an older syllabus and should not be used as a substitute for the syllabus for a current semester course.

**Recommended Citation**


This Syllabus is brought to you for free and open access by ScholarWorks@UNO. It has been accepted for inclusion in University of New Orleans Syllabi by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks@UNO. For more information, please contact scholarworks@uno.edu.
# MILTON

**Undergraduate Syllabus for English 4621**  
**Fall 2015, TH 11:00-12:15, Dr. Shenk**

All reference is to this text, unless otherwise indicated.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Reading assigned</th>
<th>Quizzes, Essays</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>Aug 20</td>
<td><strong>Course Introduction</strong> (no readings)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
--from: *The Reason of Church Government*, 835-844  
--from: *The Second Defense of the English People*, 1090 (bottom) to 1096  
--from: *An Apology for Smectymnus*, 835-852  
--Also Skim *Chronology*, xxi-xxii |                 |
| Tues   | Aug 27     | Familiar Letters, 765-782                            |                 |
| Tues   | Sep 1      | 1st and 7th *Prolusions*, 785-804                     |                 |
| Thur   | Sep 3      | *Of Education*, 967ff                                 | QUIZ            |
| **Sep 7 Labor Day Holiday** |            |                                                      |                 |
| Tues   | Sep 8      | Judges 13-16, KJV, and all of *Samson Agonistes*  
(including introduction)                              |                 |
| Tues   | Sep 10     | Continue discussing *Samson Agonistes*.                |                 |
| Tues   | Sep 15     | Early poetry:  
*On the Death of a Fair Infant*, 6  
*In Quintum Novembris* (translated), 205  
*At a Vacation Exercise*, 12-15  
*On the University Carrier*, 35  
*Another on the Same*, 36  
*Ad Patrem* (translated), 220  
*On Shakespeare*, 34  
*At a Solemn Music*, 57  
*On Time*, 58  
*How Soon Hath Time*, 144  
*Upon the Passion*, 30  
*Upon the Circumcision*, 60 | Essay 1 Assigned & QUIZ |
| Thur   | Sep 17     | *On the Morning of Christ’s Nativity*, 18ff            |                 |
| Tues   | Sep 22     | *L’Allegro* & *Il Penseroso*, 41ff and 46ff            |                 |
| Thur   | Sep 24     | More poetry:  
*Elegy VII* (tr.) 194ff  
*Lady, that in the prime*, 146  
*Fairfax, whose name*, 152  
*Cromwell, our chief of men*, 153  
*When I consider how my light is spent*, 157 |                 |
Tues Sep 29  Comus, 61ff  
Thur Oct 1  Lycidas, 99ff  

Tues Oct 6  More on Lycidas; also:
Avenge O Lord, 155
Lawrence of Virtuous Father, 158
Cyriack, whose grandsire, 159
Cyriack, this three years day, 160
Vane, young in yeares, 154
Methought I Saw, 163

Thur Oct 8  Midterm Examination  
Midterm

Tues Oct 13  Areopagitica, 997-1024 (& introduction)  
Thur Oct 15-16  Mid-semester break

Tue, Oct 20  Paradise Lost, 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  Book 2  GRAD
Thur Oct 29  Book 3  QUIZ; & Essay 2 Assigned

Tues Nov 3  Book 4
Thur Nov 5  Book 5

Tues Nov 10  Book 6 & 7  GRAD  Essay #2 Due
Thur Nov 12  Book 8  QUIZ

Tues Nov 17  Book 9 (the center of the poem)
Thur Nov 19  Book 9 & 10

Tues Nov 24  Books 11 & 12  Essay 3 Assigned
Thur Nov 26-27  Thanksgiving Vacation

Tues Dec. 1  Paradise Regained (and introduction)  Essay 3 Due & QUIZ
Thur Dec. 3  More on Paradise Regained (= last class day)

Final Examination - 10 a.m.-12 noon, Tuesday, Dec. 8th.
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. 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 30%
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.