

Fall 8-15-2011

# ENG 3804-001: John Milton And Radical Defense Of Liberty

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**Prof. Caldwell**  
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**Office: Coleman 3050**  
**Hours: MWF 10-11, W 12-1, and by appt.**

**Text**

*John Milton: The Major Works*, ed. Orgel and Goldberg

**Course Policy**

In this course we will survey some of the greatest prose and poetry of one of the most influential writers in the history of literature, John Milton. While intellectually very rewarding, seventeenth-century prose and poetry are rarely easy for the twenty-first century reader. I advise you to give yourself ample time to do the reading carefully and not to flinch when confronted by difficulty—and rest assured, you *will* be confronted by difficulty. In order to rise above this challenge, you should be a proactive reader: when you don't understand something, re-read, consult handbooks and online resources such as the Oxford English Dictionary (available through Booth Library's webpage), and come talk to me in office hours. Class time will be devoted to discussing the political, religious, and intellectual context of these works and to addressing both their complexities and our own confusion.

For this reason, in order to succeed in this class it is *absolutely essential* for you do the reading, attend class regularly with your text in hand, and take very good notes. Much of the material on the exams will come directly from class lectures and discussion. To put this another way, you are not likely to pass this class if you do not follow this advice. I reserve the right to raise or lower final grades on the basis of active, consistent class participation or poor attendance, respectively. Expect your grade to drop 1/3 a letter grade for each additional absence after your 6<sup>th</sup> absence.

Finally, I am absolutely committed to your success in this course. You should consult with me early and often about your papers. I am happy to help at all stages—from working through difficult passages to developing your thesis to constructing and/or revising drafts. Plagiarists will be reported to the Office of Student Standards and will fail the course. If you are confused about plagiarism, you must ask me about it before you turn in an assignment. Successful completion of English 1002 is a prerequisite for all upper level English courses. Enrollment in this course constitutes your agreement to the state of affairs outlined in this course policy and in the schedule of readings below.

**Assignments and Grade Distribution**

Short paper on short poetry or prose (5-7 pages): 15%  
Research paper on *Paradise Lost* (10-12 pages): 40%  
Midterm (Friday, Oct. 7): 15%  
Final Exam (Wednesday, Dec. 14, 10:15-12:15): 30%

**Schedule of Readings and Assignments**

Mon. 8/22	Introduction, start reading Kishlansky on e-reserve (password= mc3804)
Wed. 8/24	"L'Allegro"
Fri. 8/26	"Il Penseroso"
Mon. 8/29	<i>Comus</i> , or <i>A Masque...at Ludlow Castle</i>
Wed. 8/31	<i>Masque at Ludlow</i>
Fri. 9/2	<i>Masque at Ludlow</i> , conyinue reading Kishlansky on e-reserve

Mon. 9/5	Labor Day—no class
Wed. 9/7	"Lycidas"
Fri. 9/9	Discuss Kishlansky readings, <i>Reason of Church Government</i>
Mon. 9/12	<i>Of Education</i>
Wed. 9/14	<i>Areopagitica</i>
Fri. 9/16	<i>Areopagitica</i>
Mon. 9/19	<i>Areopagitica</i>
Wed. 9/21	<i>Doctrine of Discipline and Divorce</i>
Fri. 9/23	<i>DDD</i>
Mon. 9/26	<i>Second Defense</i>
Wed. 9/28	<i>The Ready and Easy Way</i>
Fri. 9/30	<i>The Ready and Easy Way</i>
Mon. 10/3	Sonnets 8, 12, 15-17; "On the New Forcers"
Wed. 10/5	Sonnets 7, 19, sonnets "On Fairfax," "To Cromwell," "To Henry Vane," "To Cyriak Skinner," <b>paper due</b>
Fri. 10/7	<b>Midterm</b>
Mon. 10/10	<i>PL 1</i>
Wed. 10/12	<i>PL 2</i>
Fri. 10/14	Fall Break—No Class
Mon. 10/17	<i>PL 3</i>
Wed. 10/19	<i>PL 3</i>
Fri. 10/21	<i>PL 4</i>
Mon. 10/24	<i>PL 4</i>
Wed. 10/26	<i>PL 5</i>
Fri. 10/28	<i>PL 5</i>
Mon. 10/31	<i>PL 6</i>
Wed. 11/2	<i>PL 7</i>
Fri. 11/4	No Class, conferences
Mon. 11/7	<i>PL 8</i>
Wed. 11/9	<i>PL 9</i>
Fri. 11/11	<i>PL 9</i>
Mon. 11/14	<i>PL 10</i>
Wed. 11/16	<i>PL 11</i>
Fri. 11/18	<i>PL 12</i>
Nov. 21-25	Thanksgiving Break—No Class
Mon. 11/28	<i>PR 1-2</i>
Wed. 11/30	<i>PR 3-4</i>
Fri. 12/2	<i>Samson Agonistes</i>
Mon. 12/5	<i>Samson Agonistes</i>
Wed. 12/7	<i>Samson Agonistes</i>
Fri. 12/9	Review, <b>final paper due</b>