Fall 8-15-1998

ENG 3804-001: Milton

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Course Description.

This course is an introduction to Milton's major poetry and representative prose, in their literary and historical contexts. We will read the work closely and with care.

Texts.

Hill, The World Turned Upside Down.
The Holy Bible (King James Version).
Hughes, John Milton: Complete Poems and Major Prose.
Lattimore, The Iliad of Homer.

Requirements and Evaluation.

• Attendance. You are allowed two unexcused absences. I will lower your grade by one letter for each unexcused absence thereafter.

• Participation, short papers, and presentations. I will expect you to do the assigned reading, and I reserve the right to give impromptu quizzes. I will also ask you to write 2 3-page essays on assigned topics and to make one class presentation. (25% of final grade.)

• Mid-term examination: The exam will entail memorization and explication of 14 lines, essays written in class, and an oral examination to be held in my office during the week of October 10. (25% of final grade.)

• Final Examination: Memorization and explication of 20 lines; two essays. (25% of final grade.)

• Final Paper (25% of grade).

Schedule.

Week of:
August 24. Introduction, "Of Education."
September 21. Sonnets. [Background Reports and Discussion: Wyatt, Surrey, Sidney, Spenser, Shakespeare.]
October 5. "The Tenure of Kings and Magistrates."
October 10. Mid-term examinations.
October 14-November 9. Paradise Lost. [Presentation/Discussion topics to be announced.]
November 30. Paradise Regained. [Background Reports and Discussion: The Book of Job.]
December 7. Samson Agonistes. [Background Reports and Discussion: Sophocles and Marlowe.]