

**San Jose State University
English Department
English 147, Milton, Section One, Fall 2012**

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Office Hours:	T/Th: 1:30-2:45
Class Days/Time:	T/Th: 12:00 - 1:15
Classroom Location:	SH 413

Course Description

From the Catalogue: The man, the thinker, the revolutionary, the poet. English poems, major prose, selected modern criticism.

From the Department Newsletter: “‘From Shadowy Types to Truth’: Reading Milton Typologically.” Sex, drugs, and rock ‘n roll. Or, “the bower of bliss”, “the music of the spheres,” and one mind-altering apple. Come check out the joys of studying John Milton, one of the most influential poets in English literature. We’ll be reading the big epic— Paradise Lost, a poem so grand even Bradley Cooper couldn’t bring it to the silver screen—as well as some of Milton’s shorter works, his poignant lyrics, and a smattering of his political prose. We’ll even explore modern digital versions of Milton. It’s sure to blow your mind.

Credit Hour Definition

SJSU's Academic Senate (in Policy 12-3) reminds us all that courses should require two hours of work outside of the classroom for every hour in the classroom. On average, this means that you should expect to devote at least six hours per week outside of class to completing the readings, research, and writing that this class requires.

Electronic Materials and MySJSU

This greensheet and syllabus is being distributed electronically to save paper. If you require a hard copy of the syllabus, please let me know. Updates and assignments may be distributed through MySJSU. Please be sure to check the email account linked to your MySJSU account frequently.

Intellectual Property

To protect instructors' intellectual property, SJSU's Academic Senate (in Policy 12-7) reminds students that no one may record instructors' lectures nor distribute class materials without the explicit permission of the instructor.

Library Liaison

The university library has a faculty librarian, Toby Matoush, who will gladly help students in English Department classes as they make use of the library's resources. She can be reached at Toby.Matoush@sjsu.edu or by phone at (408) 808-2096

Required Texts

There is only one required textbook for our class:

John Milton, *The Major Works* (Oxford World's Classics), ed. S. Orgel and J. Goldberg, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008. ISBN: 978-0199539185

There will be other assigned readings on reserve at the library.

Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives (SLOs)

Our department has five primary goals and objectives. In this course, you will be assessed in parts of all five of those objectives:

1. Read closely in a variety of forms, styles, structures, and modes, and articulate the value of close reading in the study of literature, creative writing, or rhetoric. **(See especially assignment three below).**
2. Show familiarity with major literary works, genres, periods, and critical approaches to British, American, and World Literature. **(See especially assignment two below)**
3. Write clearly, effectively, and creatively, and adjust writing style appropriately to the content, the context, and nature of the subject. **(See especially assignments two, three, and seven below)**
4. Develop and carry out research projects, and locate, evaluate, organize, and incorporate information effectively. **(See especially assignment seven below).**
5. Articulate the relations among culture, history, and texts. **(See especially the readings and discussions in weeks seven and thirteen below, assignment one, assignment six, and assignment seven)**

Classroom Protocol

You are expected to arrive at our classroom on time, having completed all of the assigned reading or other tasks. Bring your text (it's small and portable!) with you to class, as well as the notes you have taken on the reading so you can refer to specific passages as we discuss them. Please turn off your phones and other electronic devices and put them away before the start of class. Texting, emailing, or other distracting behavior should be avoided so that we can devote our time together to serious intellectual inquiry. Our class will consist of a mixture of lecture and discussion. Please join in that discussion and remember to participate in it civilly. We may disagree about ideas that arise in these discussions, but let us try respect each others' opinions.

Dropping and Adding

Especially in this age of tight budgets for California higher education, it is important to know SJSU's policies for dropping and adding. The policies can be found online. The last day to drop a class is September 4. The last day to add is September 11.

Assignments and Grading Policy

1. *Participation and Homework (100 pts/10%)* Because our class will run as a mixture of lecture and seminar, it will require your active participation. To achieve this end, you should be sure to complete all of the assigned reading beforehand. I have listed the

number of lines or pages in each reading to help you prepare for the reading. As you read, be sure to take note of things that puzzle you, things that you'd like to discuss, things that you find interesting. At each class meeting, you will turn in a page of "jottings." This page of comments, questions, observations, or connections to other texts that occur to you as you read needn't have a coherent structure to them—just assemble notes as you read the assigned texts. At the bottom of the page, I'd like you to include at least one question you would like to ask about the readings. With these jottings in front of you in class, you may have the beginnings of things you'd like to bring up in our discussion and have at least one question you'd like to discuss. These jottings will make up most of your participation grade. I will collect these TYPED responses at the end of each class, read them, and return them to you in a timely fashion. I will not accept these jottings after the class period in which they're due.

** A note on civility: In this class, we will be talking about a number of historical debates about politics and religion as they affected Milton and his readers 350 years ago. I am not trying to turn the class into a forum on religious issues, however, and I hope we can approach these issues clinically and objectively. Let's all try to be respectful of each other's personal views.

2. *One Short Allusion Note (100 pts/10%) DUE: September 25.* Milton made extensive use of biblical and classical allusions. For this assignment, you are to explore ONE of Milton's biblical or classical allusions in a short essay of about three pages. If you have trouble finding allusions, you could begin by picking out examples from the footnotes and glosses to our text. Or, feel free to ask me for help. The first step for this assignment is to select a few allusions. Then you should find and read the texts from which the allusions are drawn (say in Luke or in Virgil's Aeneid). After you decide on a single allusion to discuss, you should write a brief essay in which you discuss how Milton uses the allusion—for instance, does he make any interesting changes to the allusion or does he use it pretty much unchanged?—and explain what this allusion does for the text. You can work with any of Milton's texts (not just Paradise Lost) when you select your allusion, though you may not write about Milton's allusions to the first three chapters of Genesis.

3. *One Explication and Recitation (100 pts/10%) DUE: October 16.* You are to select 15 lines of *Paradise Lost*, memorize them, and then recite them (preferably at the beginning of a class meeting, but you can come to my office hours if you're nervous about speaking in public). The lines you choose should make sense as a whole; try not to pick exactly 15 lines if 16 lines would complete a thought in the poem. With this assignment, you are to write a three-page essay in which you explicate the passage you select and "justify" your choice. The explication will explore significant images, metaphor, diction, and other poetic choices in the passage you choose (this is the aspect I will base this paper's grade most heavily on). The justification does not have to be quite as rigorous—basically I just want you to have put some thought into choosing your 15 lines. Why select these lines instead of any other lines? Your justification could be part of your introduction or conclusion.

4. *Research Response (100 pts/10%) DUE: November 6.* Milton has provoked conflicting critical responses from the time he first appeared in print. For this assignment, you will enter into dialogue with the recent scholarship on Milton. The handout on “The Research Response” will provide more detail about this assignment, but the basic idea is for you to read two assigned articles, and then write a response, including both a summary of the articles, your assessment of their strengths and weaknesses, and some discussion of your own ideas about that topic. One of our purposes here is to become comfortable engaging secondary research as we gear up for the term paper.

5. *Midterm Exam (200 pts/20%) October 25.* The midterm will have two parts. For the first section, you will choose several short passages to identify: the book, the speaker, and the context. The second section will involve one essay of your choice from several topics. Be sure to bring a blue book to this exam.

6. *Final Exam (100 pts/10%) **WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 12 (NOTE THE DATE!)*** While our final exam won’t be cumulative in the strictest sense, it will help to be able to draw on your knowledge of material we cover in the first part of the term. The format will be the same as on the midterm: brief identifications of several passages from texts in the second part of the term and an essay in response to your choice of one from several topics.

7. *Term Paper: (300 pts/30%) FINAL DUE DATE: December 6.* There will be a separate hand out describing this assignment in more detail. You will write a ten-page research paper on one aspect of Milton’s works. This essay will require you to conduct research and synthesize the ideas of others with your own as part of a coherent essay with a strong, central thesis. Whatever you do, do not plagiarize this essay. Please consult the hand out for further information. You have a choice of due dates: November 27, or December 6.

8. *Digital Options:* I would love to allow students with an inclination to work in digital forms to develop alternatives to the above assignments. For instance, if you would like to participate in a group blog for English 147 instead of turning in hard-copy jottings, I’d be happy to allow you to work digitally in that way. Similarly, if you would like to work on your own or collectively to develop a digital Milton project to take the place of the Allusion Note or Term Paper or some other assignment above, I would be very happy to discuss that possibility. You would need to propose something specific and propose it early in the semester, so please contact me immediately if you are interested. If you use Twitter, feel free to follow along at #147Milton12.

Late Work:

When you turn in work late, it causes all sorts of problems. If you have a legitimate medical excuse, late work will not be penalized. In all other instances (with the exception of assignments in your participation grade) work may be turned in up to one week late, but it will be penalized a full letter grade. Work will not be accepted more than one week late.

Grades

The Department of English reaffirms its commitment to the differential grading scale as defined in the SJSU Catalog (“The Grading System”). Grades must represent a full range of student performance: A=excellent; B=above average; C=average; D=below average; F=failure. Courses graded according to the A, B, C, No Credit system shall follow the same pattern, except that NC (no credit) shall replace D or F. In such classes, NC shall also substitute for withdrawal (W) because neither grade (NC or W) affects a student’s GPA.

Your grade will be based on the following 1000-point scale (think of it as an expanded version of a 100-point scale):

930-1000=A	870-899=B+	770-799=C+	670-699=D+	below 600=F
900-929=A-	830-869=B	730-769=C	630-669=D	
	800-829=B-	700-729=C-	600-629=D-	

In English Department courses, instructors will comment on and grade the quality of student writing as well as the quality of the ideas being conveyed. All student writing should be distinguished by correct grammar and punctuation, appropriate diction and syntax, and well-organized paragraphs.

University Policies

Academic Integrity (S07-2)

The university’s academic integrity policy can be found online by searching the SJSU website for “S 07-2.” Violations of academic integrity, especially plagiarism or cheating on tests, will not be tolerated. Students who violate the Academic Integrity policy will receive a failing grade for the course and may be subject to further disciplinary action.

Compliance with the ADA

If you need any special accommodation, please contact me right away. If you register with the university’s DRC, they will be happy to help me find ways to accommodate your special needs.

English 147

Milton, Fall 2012

Course Schedule

This is the schedule of readings and assignments we will follow. If we need to make any adjustments to the schedule, I will send an email to everyone through MySJSU. Please be sure to check the email account you provided to MySJSU.

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	Th 8/23	First Day. Greensheet Review. Milton's "On Shakespeare." Other Fiendish Poets.
2	T 8/28	Attending to Form: Sonnets 7, 8, 15, 16, 19. (pages 34-5; 80-2)
	Th 8/30	Additional Sonnets, Fairfax, Cromwell, Vane (pages 85-6)
3	T 9/4	Read <i>Paradise Lost</i> Book 1 (798 lines)
	Th 9/6	Continue <i>Paradise Lost</i> Book 1 (798 lines) Read John Carey, "Milton's Satan" (on reserve)
4	T 9/11	Read <i>Paradise Lost</i> Book 2 (1055 lines)
	Th 9/13	Read <i>Paradise Lost</i> Book 3 (742 lines) Read D Danielson "The Fall and Milton's Theodicy" (reserve)
5	T 9/18	Read <i>Paradise Lost</i> Book 4 (1015 lines) Read Diane McColley "Milton and the Sexes" (on reserve)
	Th 9/20	Read <i>Paradise Lost</i> Book 5 (907 lines)
6	T 9/25	Read <i>Paradise Lost</i> Book 6 (912 lines) ALLUSION NOTE DUE (SLO 2, 3)
	Th 9/27	Read <i>Paradise Lost</i> Book 7 (640 lines) Read Genesis, Chapters 1-2. (Compare--how does Milton transform the Creation story?)
7	T 10/2	Read <i>Paradise Lost</i> Book 8 (653 lines)
	Th 10/4	Read <i>Paradise Lost</i> Book 9 (1189 lines) Read selection from Lanyer's <u>Salve Deus Rex Judaeorum</u> ("Pilate's Wife's Defense of Eve")
8	T 10/9	Read <i>Paradise Lost</i> Book 10 (1104 lines); Read Genesis, Chapter 3.
	Th 10/11	Read <i>Paradise Lost</i> Book 11 (901 lines)
9	T 10/16	Read <i>Paradise Lost</i> Book 12 (649 lines) Final thoughts on <i>Paradise Lost</i> . EXPLICATION DUE (SLO 1, 3)
	Th 10/18	Begin <i>Samson Agonistes</i> (first 709 lines) Read Judges 13-16.

10	T 10/23 Th 10/25	Finish <i>Samson Agonistes</i> lines 710-1758 (1048 lines) OPTIONAL: WEDNESDAY 10/24 MILTON MARATHON MIDTERM EXAM
11	T 10/30 Th 11/1	Read <i>Paradise Regained</i> Books 1-2 (988 lines). Compare <u>Luke</u> 3:21-38 and <u>Matthew</u> 3:13-17 Read <i>Paradise Regained</i> Books 3-4 (1082 lines) Compare <u>Matthew</u> 4:1-11 and <u>Luke</u> 4:1-13
12	T 11/6 Th 11/8	Read <i>Comus</i> (1023 lines) RESEARCH RESPONSE DUE Read <i>Lycidas</i> (193 lines) Read J Martin Evans, "Lycidas" (on reserve)
13	T 11/13 Th 11/15	Read L' Allegro and Il Penseroso (328 lines) Begin <i>Areopagitica</i> Read Blair Hoxby, "Areopagitica and Liberty" (on reserve)
14	T 11/20 Th 11/22	NO CLASS: THANKSGIVING
15	T 11/27 Th 11/29	Finish <i>Areopagitica</i> ; Early Due Date for TERM PAPERS (SLO 3, 4) Begin <i>Tenure of Kings and Magistrates</i>
16	T 12/4 Th 12/6	Finish <i>Tenure of Kings and Magistrates</i> Read Stephen Fallon, "The Strangest Piece of Reason" (reserve) Course Wrap-Up, Final Exam Review. Final Due Date for TERM PAPERS (SLO 3, 4)
FINAL EXAM		**WEDNESDAY, Dec 12 at 0945.** (SLO 5)