

ENGL 444, Section 1
Meets MWF 2:00-2:50 in ML 412

Thomas Willard

Office: Modern Languages 330

Hours: Wednesdays 1:00-1:50, Fridays 9:00-10:50, and by appointment.

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Note: This syllabus and other class handouts can be downloaded from the site; links to online texts and resources can be found there.

Catalogue description: Survey of Milton's English poetry, with emphasis on Paradise Lost.

Course plan. Work will be divided into five units of three weeks each:

Weeks 2-4: early poetry

Weeks 5-7: selected prose and poetry

Weeks 8-10: Paradise Lost 1-6

Weeks 11-13: Paradise Lost 7-12

Weeks 14-16 : late poetry

At the end of each unit there will be an essay or exam. The final exam will be cover all work studied.

Weekly plan. While keeping as much continuity as possible, classes will have three formats:

Mondays: Lecture and some discussion. Occasional reading quizzes

Wednesdays: Student led discussion (except before exams)

Fridays: Discussion of selected topics, supplemented with handouts

Each student will be assigned to help lead one discussion. All students are invited to request topics, or suggest material, for supplemental discussion.

Supplemental material will be distributed in class and may be downloaded from the course web site.

Required texts

Poetry = Milton, John. The Complete Poetry. Ed. John T. Shawcross. Rev. ed. 1971. New York: Anchor, 1989. An "old spelling" edition with prose translations of verses written in Latin, Greek, and Italian.

Prose = Milton, John. "Areopagitica" and "Of Education": With Autobiographical Passages from Other Prose Works. Ed. George H. Sabine. Crofts Classics. New York: Appleton-Century-Crofts, 1951. Wheeling, IL: Harlan Davidson, 1986. An inexpensive edition of two complete works with useful selections from three others.

Recommended texts

- Bradford, Richard. The Complete Critical Guide to John Milton. London: Routledge, 2001. A guide to Milton's works with sections on his life and critical reputation. Includes a bibliography of recent scholarship. Available on 4-hr. reserve.
- Gibaldi, Joseph, ed. MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers. 6th ed. New York: MLA, 2003. Your guide to style and format for English essays. Extensively indexed.
- Holy Bible. King James Version.
- Ovid. Metamorphoses.

Assignments and weight

- Participation (5%)
Best 5 of 6 quizzes (5%)
Essay 1 (15%)
Essay 2 (15%)
Essay 3 (20%)
Mid-term exam (15%)
Final exam (25%)

Week 1 (Jan. 14-16)

- Wed. Introduction. Course objectives. Milton's world and words
Fri. Prose 93-107 (Second Defense of the People of England)
Poetry vii-xii, 56-62 ("Biographical Table"; Elegy 5)

Week 2 (Jan. 19-23)

- Mon. MLK Day. No class meeting
Wed. Poetry 63-78 (Nativity Ode; Elegy 6)
Fri. Poetry 52-56, 93-94 (At a Vacation Exercise; On Shakespear); Luke 2

Week 3 (Jan. 26-30)

- Mon. Poetry 106-16, 158-64 (L'Allegro, Il Penseroso; Lycidas)
Wed.
Fri. Ovid, Metamorphoses bk. 5 (Arethusa and Alphaeus)

Week 4 (Feb. 2-6)

- Mon. Poetry 124-52 ("Comus")
Wed.
Fri. Poetry 201-2 (Sonnet 13); Essay 1: Rhetoric in A Mask.

Week 5 (Feb. 9-13)

- Mon. Prose vii-x; 57-72 ("Introduction"; Of Education)
Wed. Poetry 157-58, 164-70 (At a Solemn Musick; Ad Patrem)
Fri.

Week 6 (Feb. 16-20)

Mon. Prose 1-56 (Areopagitica)
Wed. Poetry 200-1, 211-12, 227 (Sonnets 11, 12, 15)
Fri. Wordsworth, Sonnet ("Milton, thou shouldst be living at this hour")

Week 7 (Feb. 23-27)

Mon. Prose 73-92 (from Reason and Apology)
Wed. Poetry 229, 241-43 (Sonnets 17, 18, 19)
Fri. Mid-semester exam

Week 8 (Mar. 1-5)

Mon. Poetry 249-97 ("The Verse"; PL 1-2)
Wed.
Fri. Isaiah 14

Week 9 (Week 8-12)

Mon. Poetry 298-342 (PL 3-4)
Wed.
Fri. Psalm 2. Essay 2. The World of Paradise Lost.

Spring Break (Mar. 15-19)**Week 10 (Mar. 22-26)**

Mon. Poetry 342-87 (PL 5-6)
Wed.
Fri. Revelation 12

Week 11 (Mar. 29-Apr. 2)

Mon. Poetry 387-420 (PL 7-8)
Wed.
Fri. Genesis 1-3

Week 12 (Apr. 5-9)

Mon. Poetry 420-78 (PL 9-10)
Wed.
Fri. Genesis 4-8. Essay 3: Psychology in Paradise Lost.

Week 13 (Apr. 12-16)

Mon. Poetry 478-517 (PL 11-12)
Wed.
Fri. Genesis 9-11; Matthew 3-4

Week 14 (Apr. 19-23)

Mon. Poetry 520-72 (PR)

Wed.
Fri. Judges 13-16

Week 15 (Apr. 26-30)

Mon. Poetry 573-620 (SA)
Wed.
Fri.

Week 16 (May 3-5)

Mon. Review
Wed.
Fri.

Exam Week (May 10-14)

Fri. Final exam. 2:00-4:00 in ML 411

Spring Deadlines

Jan. 22 (Thurs.). Last day to add classes using a Change of Schedule form.

Feb, 10 (Thurs.). Last day to drop a course without enrollment record, i.e., a grade of "W." Last day to change registration status without the instructor's signature.

Mar. 9 (Tues.). Last day to drop with a grade of "W" (if passing) or to change to audit grading. Last day to change registration status without your dean's signature.