

ENL 4221
plr@ufl.edu

Prof. Rudnytsky
4366 TUR
T 3:00-4:00 p.m., and by appt.

Milton's Major Poems

Jan. 9 – Introductory

Jan. 16 – *Paradise Lost*, Book I

Jan. 23 – *Paradise Lost*, Book II

Jan. 30 – *Paradise Lost*, Book III

Feb. 6 – *Paradise Lost*, Book IV

Feb. 13 – Midterm examination

Feb. 20 – *Paradise Lost*, Book V

Feb. 27 – *Paradise Lost*, Books VI-VII

Mar. 6 – Spring break

Mar. 13 – *Paradise Lost*, Books VIII

Mar. 20 – *Paradise Lost*, Books IX

Mar. 27 – *Paradise Lost*, Book X

Apr. 3 – *Paradise Lost*, Books XI-XII; EARLY PAPER TOPICS DUE

Apr. 10 – *Paradise Regained*; EARLY PAPERS DUE & ALL PAPER TOPICS DUE

Apr. 17 – *Samson Agonistes*; ALL PAPERS DUE

Apr. 24 – Final examination

Course Objectives

This course will deal with Milton's three major poems: *Paradise Lost*, the "brief epic" *Paradise Regained*, and the "closet drama" *Samson Agonistes*. The primary objective is to enhance students' skills of close reading in order to cultivate an understanding and

appreciation of Milton's art. Theological, political, psychological, and gender issues will be explored in lectures and discussions. The two in-class examinations and the required term paper will provide occasions for students to demonstrate analytic and writing skills commensurate with an upper-division English course.

Course Requirements & Evaluation Criteria

Your course grade will be based on the following criteria: midterm (25%), final exam (25%), one five-page paper (40%), and class participation (10%). I reserve the right to be more lenient if it seems warranted, but these percentages are the norm. You will have the full three-hour block for the midterm, which will consist of three parts: (1) identification and commentary on six passages (30 points); (2) a short essay (15 points); (3) a long essay on a choice of topics (30 points). The two-hour final is noncumulative and will have two parts: (1) identification and commentary on six passages (30 points); (2) a long essay on a choice of topics (30 points). Part 1 on both exams is closed-book and closed-note. The essay questions are open-book and open-note. *Papers must follow the guidelines of the Style Sheet.* At least one week before the papers are due, you must send me an email with a one-paragraph proposal for your topic and setting forth your thesis. I will respond and tell you either to go ahead or ask for further clarification before you proceed. *No outside sources may be used without being specified ahead of time and receiving my permission.* Papers handed in before the last class will be returned the following week with my comments and a grade, and may then be rewritten by the final exam for a new grade. Because this is a three-hour class, students leaving without my permission at the break will be counted absent for the class. Any unapproved use of smartphones or other electronic devices during class will be subject to one warning per semester, and a second occurrence will count as an absence. Each absence over three per semester will result in a lowering of your course grade by one-half a letter. Either the hardback *Complete Poems and Major Prose* (Hackett, ed. Hughes) or the paperback *Major Works* (Oxford, ed. Orgel and Goldberg) must be used. Both texts are available at the UF Bookstore.

Students with Disabilities

The Disability Resource Center in the Dean of Students Office provides information and support regarding accommodations for students with disabilities in the classroom. Staff will assist any student who registers as having a disability. Official documentation is required to determine eligibility for appropriate classroom accommodations. For more information about Student Disability Services, see: <http://www.ufl.edu/disability/>