ENGLISH 350B: Seventeenth Century Literature II
An in-depth study of Milton’s Paradise Lost

Winter 2013
MWF 10:30-11:20
HH 139

Instructor: Alexis McQuigge
PAS 2217
amcquigg@uwaterloo.ca
Office Hours: MW 9:30-10:20 or by appointment

Course Description:
This course offers an in-depth study of Milton’s epic poem, Paradise Lost, in its literary and historical contexts. We will examine the major themes of Milton’s poem, including his attitude toward women, issues of free will and obedience, ideas of human stewardship of the natural world, the nature of evil and the timing and style of the poem in order to come to terms with how and why a text over three hundred years old is still so influential in the world. We will examine some of the questions raised in Milton’s work and will examine the text closely for evidence of Milton’s answers.

Required Texts:

Other Resources Available:
Sections of Terry Eagleton’s How to Read a Poem will be available online for you to peruse should you need some help with Milton’s form.

Schedule
We will attempt to follow this schedule as closely as possible. Please have all readings completed for the class in which they have been assigned. Readings not contained in the Norton Critical Edition (nce) are available on the course’s Desire to Learn (d2l) site.

Week 1 – January 7-11:
- Introduction & Milton’s influences
- Read selections from the Bible (nce) and from Dante’s Inferno (d2l).

Week 2 – January 14-18:
- PL Book I
- Flannagan, Roy. “The World all Before Us: More than Three Hundred Years of Criticism” (d2l)

Week 3 – January 21-25:
- PL Book II
- Lewis, C. S. From “Satan” (nce).
- Rajan, Balachandra. From “The Problem of Saran” (nce).
- Friday, January 25th: Two Presentations
Week 4 – January 28-February 01:
- *PL* Book III
- **Friday, February 1**: Two Presentations

Week 5 – February 4-8:
- *PL* Book IV
- **Friday, February 8**: Two Presentations

Week 6 – February 11 – 15:
- *PL* Book V
- **Friday, February 15**: Two Presentations

Week 7 – February 18-22:
- Reading week, no classes.

Week 8 – February 25-March 1:
- *PL* Book VI and VII
- **Friday, March 1**: Midterm

Week 9 – March 4-8:
- *PL* Book VIII
- Nyquist, Mary. From “The Genesis of Gendered Subjectivity in the Divorce Tracts and *Paradise Lost*” (nce).
- Walker, Julia M. From “Eve: The First Reflection” (nce).
- **Friday, March 8**: Two Presentations

Week 10 – March 11-15:
- *PL* Book IX
- Lewis, C.S., From “The Fall” (nce)
- Waldock, A.J.A. From “The Fall (II)” (nce)
- **Friday, March 15**: Two Presentations

Week 11 – March 18-22:
- *PL* Book X
- Stevens, Paul. “Milton in America” (d2l).
- **Friday, March 22**: Two Presentations

Week 12 – March 25-29:
- *PL* Book XI
- **Friday, March 29**: Good Friday, no class.

Week 13 – April 1-5
- *PL* Book XII
- Viswanathan, Gauri. “Milton, Imperialism and Education”.
- **Friday, April 5**: Papers Due.
Assignments:
- Attendance and Participation: 20%
  - You will be expected to attend all classes and participate as required. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of every class.
- Presentation: 25%
  - A twenty-minute presentation on an element of your choice in the book we’re covering for the week. Presentation dates will be assigned on the first day of class.
- Essay: 30%
  - 15-20 page paper that engages not only with a theme or topic related to *Paradise Lost* but also with critical discourse on the subject.
- Midterm: 25%

Course Policies:

Policy for Late/Incomplete/Missed Assignments:
All assignments are due at the beginning of class (any assignment handed in after the class has commenced will face a 10% deduction). All late assignments will be penalized an additional 2% per calendar day (including weekends). We live in a technological age and, unless a student was born yesterday, he or she is aware that technology has the potential to fail and that the likelihood of such an event doubles the night before a paper is due. With this in mind, students are encouraged to back up assignments regularly; computer failure and other technological mishaps do not qualify for an extension. I will not remind you if you have failed to turn in an assignment, nor will I ask you where it is. You’re grown-ups now, and part of being a grown-up is remembering what your responsibilities are, and keeping up with them.

Extensions:
I would, generally speaking, like to read your best work, rather than whatever form of it you can turn in by the due date. With that being said, no extensions will granted for any reason other than serious, documented medical illness or a death in the family.

Expectations and Common Courtesy:

Attendance: Students are expected to attend all lectures. Should you miss a lecture you are responsible to find out what you missed from one of your colleagues in the class; the course instructor will not provide notes or an overview.

Punctuality: Please arrive on time and plan to remain for the entire class. Unless you become ill, do not begin packing up your books before class is over because this is distracting to everyone. If you know in advance that you cannot stay for the entire class, please sit next to the door and exit quietly.

Courtesy in Class: Other than to respond to or ask a question, please do not converse during lectures (even quiet whispering is distracting and disrespectful of your fellow students and your instructor). Please turn off (or silence) all cell phones and other electronic devices before the class begins. Students who plan to spend the lecture time watching movies, completing assignments for other courses, checking their email, Facebook or chatting on MSN are invited to sit at the back of the classroom or leave. Should laptop use become a distraction we will, as a class, consider setting up laptop-free zones.
**Cell Phone Use in Class:**
I am aware that most of you routinely bring your cellular phones along to class. I am also well aware that many of you have many other important things going on, and may need to accept calls or texts messages during class. Please feel free to do so, but do so confident in the knowledge that I will confiscate your device, which will then be sold at auction and the proceeds donated to the Hospice of Waterloo Region. A tax receipt will be issued in your name.

**E-mail:**
Students should be aware that I do not, as a habit, sit in front of my computer waiting to receive correspondence from them. Should you e-mail me with a question, I will respond as quickly as possible, but cannot guarantee that this will happen as quickly as you’d like. Normally speaking, I keep business hours. That means if you e-mail me at 11pm the night before an assignment is due, the chances of me replying to you in time are slim. Avoid doing this.

Please also note that I will not accept assignments submitted by e-mail. If you are not present in class to hand in an assignment, my suggestion is that you make arrangements to deliver it to me beforehand. Any assignment submitted electronically will not be graded.

**Academic Misconduct:**
Generally speaking, I have absolutely no tolerance for academic offenses including plagiarism, working co-operatively on assignments, or re-submitting already graded materials. The assignments in this course, unless otherwise indicated, are individual. Any sign that students have been working together to complete assignments, or that students have been working co-operatively with the Internet on their assignments, will be thoroughly investigated, and appropriate action will be taken.

**A Note on Academic Integrity for Students:**
Academic Integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. [Check www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/ for more information.]

Note for students with disabilities: The Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD), located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the OPD at the beginning of each academic term.