

Sophister Module Description Template 2021-22

Full Name: Milton: Poetry, Prophecy, and Polemic

Short Name: Milton

Lecturer Name and Email Address: Mark Sweetnam (mark.sweetnam@tcd.ie)

ECTS Weighting: 10

Semester Taught: MT

Year: SS

Module Content:

This course introduces students to the broad range of Milton's writing – from prose to poetry and from his early works to his mature masterpieces. It will provide an introduction to the political, religious, and social contexts in which Milton wrote.

1. Introduction
2. Early poetry – 'Lycidas', *A Mask Presented at Ludlow Castle, 1634*
3. Prose of the 1640s
4. Sonnets
5. *Paradise Lost* I-III
6. *Paradise Lost* IV-VI
7. READING WEEK
8. *Paradise Lost* VII-IX
9. *Paradise Lost* X-XII
10. *Paradise Regained*
11. *Samson Agonistes*
12. Conclusion

Learning Outcomes:

On successful completion of this module a student should be able to:

- Analyse Milton texts using techniques of close reading;
- Demonstrate appropriate contextual knowledge;
- Understand the application of literary theories to early modern texts;
- Express themselves in a manner suitable to level 4.

Learning Aims:

- To familiarise students with the writing of John Milton;
- To familiarise students with the historical and theoretical contexts of such knowledge;
- To equip students to consider issues of genre and interpretation;
- To develop transferable skills suitable to a level 4 course in English.

Assessment Details:

- Number of Components: 1
- Name/Type of Component(s): Essay
- Word Count of Component(s): 5,000
- Percentage Value of Component(s): 100%

Preliminary Reading List:

Recommended text: William Kerrigan et al (eds), *Complete Poetry and Essential Prose of John Milton* (Modern Classics, 2007).

Core reading:

- Campbell, Gordon and Thomas N. Corns, *John Milton: Life, Work, and Thought* (2008)
- Corns, Thomas N. (ed.), *A Companion to Milton* (2001)
- Hill, Christopher, *Milton and the English Revolution* (1977)
- Keeble, N. H. (ed.), *The Cambridge Companion to Writing of the English Revolution* (2001)
- Lewalski, Barbara, *The Life of John Milton* (2000)
- Nutt, Joe, *A Guidebook to Paradise Lost* (2011)

Additional resources:

- Professor John Rogers' lectures in Milton at Yale: oyc.yale.edu/english/milton
- The Lady Margaret Lectures 2008 at Christ's College Cambridge: www.christs.cam.ac.uk/milton400/lectures.htm

General bibliography:

Students should pay attention to articles in such journals as *Milton Quarterly*, *English Literary Renaissance* and *The Seventeenth Century*, all available online via the library website.

- Achinstein, Sharon, *Milton and the Revolutionary Reader* (1994)
- Achinstein, Sharon, *Literature and Dissent in Milton's England* (2003)
- Armitage, David et al (eds), *Milton and Republicanism* (1995)
- Bennett, Joan S., *Reviving Liberty: Radical Christian Humanism in Milton's Great Poems* (1989)
- Campbell, Gordon et al, "The Provenance of *De Doctrina Christiana*," *Milton Quarterly* 31 (1997), pp. 67-121
- Corns, Thomas N., *Regaining Paradise Lost* (1994)
- Dobranski, Stephen B., "Where Men of Differing Judgements Croud': Milton and the Culture of the Coffee Houses," *The Seventeenth Century* 9 (1994), pp. 25-56
- Dobranski, Stephen B. and John P. Rumrich (eds), *Milton and Heresy* (1998)
- Dobranski, Stephen B. *Milton, Authorship, and the Book Trade* (1999)
- Edwards, Karen, *Milton and the Natural World: Science and Poetry in Paradise Lost* (2000)
- Empson, William, *Milton's God* (1981)
- Evans, J. M., *Paradise Lost and the Genesis Tradition* (1968)
- Fallon, Stephen M., *Milton Among the Philosophers: Poetry and Materialism in Seventeenth-Century England* (1991)
- Forsyth, Neil, *The Old Enemy: Satan and the Combat Myth* (1987)
- Fish, Stanley E., *Surprised by Sin: The Reader in Paradise Lost* (1967)
- Fish, Stanley E., *How Milton Works* (2001)
- Hale, John K., *Milton's Languages: The Impact of Multilingualism on Style* (1997)
- Hebron, Malcolm, *Key Concepts in Renaissance Literature* (2011)
- Keeble, N. H., *The Literary Culture of Nonconformity in Later Seventeenth-century England* (1987)
- King, John N., *Milton and Religious Controversy: Satire and Polemic in Paradise Lost* (2000)
- Knoppers, Laura, *Historicizing Milton: Spectacle, Power, and Poetry in Restoration England* (1994)
- Kolbrener, William, *Milton's Warring Angels: A Study of Critical Engagements* (1997)
- Leonard, John, *Naming in Paradise: Milton and the Language of Adam and Eve* (1990)
- Lieb, Michael, *Milton and the Culture of Violence* (1994)
- Loewenstein, David and James Grantham Turner (eds), *Politics, Poetics, and Hermeneutics in Milton's Prose* (1990)
- Loewenstein, David, *Milton and the Drama of History: Historical Vision, Iconoclasm, and the Literary Imagination* (1990)
- Loewenstein, David, *Representing Religion in Milton and His Contemporaries: Religion, Politics, and Polemics in Radical Puritanism* (2001)
- Milner, Andrew, *John Milton and the English Revolution: A Study in the Sociology of Literature* (1981)
- Norbrook, David, *Writing the English Republic: Poetry, Rhetoric and Politics, 1627-1660* (1999)
- Nutt, Joe, *A Guidebook to Paradise Lost* (2011)
- Nyquist, Mary, "The Genesis of Gendered Subjectivity in the Divorce Tracts and *Paradise Lost*," in Mary Nyquist and Margaret W. Ferguson (eds), *Re-membering Milton: Essays on the Texts and Traditions* (1987), pp. 99-127

- Parry, Graham and Joad Raymond (eds), *Milton and the Terms of Liberty* (2002)
- Poole, William, *Milton and the Idea of the Fall* (2005)
- Prior, Charles W.A. and Glenn Burgess (eds), *England's Wars of Religion, Revisited* (2011)
- Radzinovicz, Mary Ann, "The Politics of Paradise Lost," in Kevin Sharpe and Steven Zwicker (eds), *Politics of Discourse: The Literature and History of Seventeenth-Century England* (1987), pp. 204-29.
- Raymond, Joad, "The Cracking of the Republican Spokes," *Prose Studies*, 19 (1996), pp. 255-74
- Raymond, Joad, *Milton's Angels* (2010)
- Rosenblatt, Jason P., *Torah and Law in Paradise Lost* (1994)
- Rosenblatt, Jason P., *Renaissance England's Chief Rabbi: John Selden* (2006), 74-92
- Rumrich, John P., *Milton Unbound: Controversy and Reinterpretation* (1996)
- Skulsky, Harold, *Milton and the Death of Man: Humanism on Trial in Paradise Lost* (2000)
- Smith, Nigel, *Literature and Revolution in England, 1640-1660* (1994)
- Smith, Nigel, *Is Milton better than Shakespeare?* (2008)
- Turner, James Grantham, *One Flesh: Paradisal Marriage and Sexual Relations in the Age of Milton* (1987)
- Wolfe, Don M., *Milton in the Puritan Revolution* (1941)
- Worden, Blair, "Milton's republicanism and the tyranny of heaven," in Gisela Bock et al (eds), *Machiavelli and Republicanism* (1990), pp. 225-46
- Worden, Blair, *Literature and Politics in Cromwellian England* (2007)
- Zwicker, Steven N., *Lines of Authority: Politics and Literary Culture, 1649-1689* (1993)

Please note:

- **Curricular information is subject to change.**
- **Information is displayed only for guidance purposes, relates to the current academic year only and is subject to change.**