

ENG 369

John Milton: Major Poetry and Selected Prose

Instructor: G. Kuchar
Email: kucharg@uvic.ca
Phone: 250-721-7248



Gustave Doré (1866), Illustration for John Milton's *Paradise Lost* (1866) - Wikimedia.

Course Description:

John Milton stands at the foundation of both modern English literature and Anglo-American political thought. In this course, we will learn why he has had such an enormous impact on centuries of writers and thinkers. Focusing primarily on *Paradise Lost*, we will learn to read Milton in his literary, religious, and cultural contexts. These contexts include virtually the whole scope of western culture from its beginnings in the classical tradition to the Christian Bible and its many interpretive traditions; to renaissance humanism and early modern science; to seventeenth-century revolutionary politics; and much else besides. We will also attend closely to Milton's artistry, to the formal qualities of his poetic, narrative, and rhetorical styles. Consideration of Milton's ongoing influence on literature, politics, and culture will also be discussed.

Proposed Assignments:

1. Mid-Term In-Class Test. 10%.
2. Research Essay #1 (1,000-1,200 words). 15%.
3. Reading Journal and/or Creative Project. 10%. (All Satisfactory Journals-Projects receive 100%)
4. Final Research Essay: (1,500-2,000 words). 30%
5. Final Exam. 25%
6. Participation. 10%.

Readings :

1. *Comus or A Masque at Ludlow.*
2. *Lycidas.*
3. *Paradise Lost.*
4. *Areopagitica.*
5. *Paradise Regained*
6. *Samson Agonistes.*