

## ***Fall/Winter 2018-2019***

**AP/EN 4523 3.0M (W)**

***Milton***

**Course Director:**

Dr. Natalie Neill  
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**Delivery Format:**

Seminar

**Time:**

Wednesday 11:30 am-2:30 pm, Ross South 101

**Description:**

In this seminar course, we will read a selection of John Milton's poetry and polemical prose, including his "diffuse" epic, *Paradise Lost*, to which we will devote the entire second half of the term. We will consider Milton's poems and tracts in light of seventeenth-century political and religious conflicts, Milton's biography, and Renaissance literary theories. In reading *Paradise Lost*, we will contemplate Milton's reworking of the Hebrew Scriptures and classical epics, his use of the sublime, the proto-Romantic elements in the work, and the problem of heroism (among other topics). General course topics will include Milton's Puritanism, republicanism, and Christian humanism; his use of genre and rhetoric; and his reception and legacy.

By the end of the course, students will be able to discuss the features of Milton's style and will have acquired an understanding of Milton's development as a writer. Students will appreciate the historical, literary, and biographical contexts that informed Milton's work, as well as his importance within the history of English literature. Students will be able to identify the characteristics of the genres in which Milton worked (e.g., ode, pastoral elegy, sonnet, masque, polemical tract, heroic epic, etc.), name his most important sources, and recognize his literary innovations. Finally, students will sharpen their close reading, analytical, and communication skills by completing the readings, written assignments, and an oral presentation.

**Category:**

C

**Historical Requirement:**

Time Period I

**Requirements:**

Seminar presentation	25%
Research essay (8-9 pages)	35%
Final test	25%
Informed participation	15%

**Reading List:**

Milton's Selected Poetry and Prose (ed. Rosenblatt) (Norton)  
*Paradise Lost* (ed. Teskey) (Norton)

**Open To:**

4th Year Honors