

Fall/Winter 2020-2021

AP/EN 4523 3.0A (F)	Milton
Course Director:	Heather Campbell Atkinson 730 Ext. 22144 hcampbel@yorku.ca
Time:	N/A
Delivery Format:	Remote – (asynchronous delivery) – There is no set course meeting time. Students may engage with course content/materials 24/7.
Description:	John Milton was in every way exceptional. He was an extraordinarily complicated man, who lived and wrote in extraordinarily complicated times. His adulthood spanned the English Civil War and the period of republican England, followed by the restoration of the monarchy, as well as Galileo’s challenges to the accepted understanding of the shape of the cosmos. He was a passionate anti-royalist, who sacrificed his sight in the parliamentary cause and narrowly escaped imprisonment for writing in fierce opposition to the return of the King; he was opposed to censorship and in favour of divorce (although his attitude to women was at best paternalistic); his religious beliefs were complex in the extreme, and he was uncompromising in his defence of them; and no one, but no one, could craft a better epic simile. In this course we will begin by reading some early poetry—sonnets and the pastoral elegy <i>Lycidas</i> —and then concentrate on the epic poems <i>Paradise Lost</i> and <i>Paradise Regained</i> . We will read Milton’s work against the backdrop of this politically and culturally turbulent time, but we will primarily respond to the power and beauty of his language.
Category:	C
Historical Requirement:	Period I (pre-1700)
Requirements:	Active participation, 15% Close reading essay, 20% Seminar presentation, 20% Critical essay, 30% Best 3 of 5 very short response papers, 15%
Reading List:	John Milton <i>The Major Works</i> ed. Stephen Orgel and Jonathan Goldberg. Oxford World’s Classics: <i>Sonnets; Lycidas; Paradise Lost; Paradise Regained</i> ; short selections from the prose works.
Open To:	Year 4 Honours