

English 2283 : Winter 2006 : c17th Prose and Poetry

Second Paper

Grade weight: 35%

Due: April 5

For your second paper you must focus on the major poetic work produced in England during the seventeenth century, John Milton's *Paradise Lost*. We will devote the majority of our term to reading and discussing this profoundly philosophical poem, and during discussion a variety of topics will arise. *Paradise Lost* also has a critical history that matches its poetic and philosophical power, so you will have no difficulty finding a wide variety of approaches to the poem, or to some aspect of it. You are NOT expected to write about the entire poem. That would require a book-length study, at least. Rather, what you should do is find a topic that interests you, develop a thesis on that topic, and write a paper that consistently and coherently addresses that thesis. I do NOT expect you to produce a paper that is so startlingly new in its insights into the poem that you turn the head of Milton scholars every where. I DO expect you to use the opportunity provided by this second paper to teach yourself more about *Paradise Lost* and your chosen topic than you could learn without writing a solid, well-considered, and coherent paper on something that interests you. The oft-made demand for "originality" ought not to be thought of in global terms. Rather, it ought to be thought of in personal terms. If you reach a conclusion someone else has previously arrived at, that's fine, as long as you arrive there by dint of your own (i.e. original) processes of research, thinking, and writing.

For this paper, I will expect to see more evidence of research into your topic than was expected in your first paper.

POSSIBLE TOPICS:

Eve	Cosmology	Milton's influence
Adam	Free Will	Mythology
Satan	Intertextuality	Blame/Responsibility
God	Narrative/Narratology	<i>Felix culpa</i>
The Son	Point of view	Influences on Milton
Predestination	Feminism	Calvinism

This is no where near an exhaustive list, and you should feel free to develop any topic you like. I advise you to consult with me as you develop your topic, and before you put too much time and effort into it, as I am likely to be able to help guide you to secondary sources or to advise you in other ways.

FORM:

As with your first paper, you must format this paper in accordance with MLA style.

As with your first paper, you must provide a list of references (a.k.a. a bibliography) you used to help you write your paper. This list will conform to MLA rules.

In addition to adhering to the conventions of the MLA, you are also required to re-format your paper into an electronic template. I will provide you with this template, and place what will then be your webpage into the larger website for the *Paradise Lost* paper for ENGL 2283 - 2006. Even though I will provide you with a template, you will still have to do more work to ensure your webpage is properly formatted, so be sure to plan accordingly.

I also have more faith in your aesthetic sense than I do in my own, so I encourage you to modify the template in small ways to make your page more attractive, or perhaps more functional. We will discuss this option in class prior to submission of your first paper, and if you'd like we can re-visit it before you render your second paper in electronic format.

GRADING:

Following MLA rules	10%
Successfully <sup>1</sup> formatting within electronic template	25%
Meaningful title	5%
Effective <sup>2</sup> incorporation of several <sup>3</sup> secondary sources	20%
Educational value <sup>4</sup>	40%
Imaginative adaptation of electronic template that does not violate copyright or the fit of your page into the class site	Bonus 10%

<sup>1</sup> "Successful" means all the links work properly.

<sup>2</sup> "Effective" means in accordance with the description provided above.

<sup>3</sup> I chose the word "several" quite intentionally because it is NOT a specific number. Part of what you will be graded on here is your own work ethic, as demonstrated by your interpretation of the word "several." So don't ask "how many secondary sources should we cite?"

<sup>4</sup> I want to see you use this opportunity to teach yourself. If you do that, others will learn, too.