

## **English 2283.X2 – Seventeenth-century English**

T, Th 12:00 – 1:30

BAC 204

Prof. Richard Cunningham

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Office Hours: T 1:30 – 2:30, Wed. 1:00 – 2:30, & by appointment

### **DISABILITY STATEMENT:**

#### **Students with disabilities that affect learning:**

If you are a student with a documented disability who anticipates needing accommodations in this course, please inform me after you meet with Kathy O'Rourke (902-585-1823) [disability.access@acadiau.ca](mailto:disability.access@acadiau.ca) or Abu Kamara (902-585-1291) [abu.kamara@acadiau.ca](mailto:abu.kamara@acadiau.ca) in Accessibility Services, Student Resource Centre, lower level of the Old SUB.

### **Plagiarism Statement**

The following text is quoted from [Plagiarism at Acadia - Student Guide](#):

Plagiarism is a serious academic offence. According to the online *Oxford English Dictionary*, plagiarism is defined as:

the action or practice of plagiarizing; the wrongful appropriation or purloining, and publication as one's own, of the ideas, or the expression of the ideas (literary, artistic, musical, mechanical, etc.) of another.

Plagiarism also includes:

- Having a friend write a paper for you or using someone else's as your own.
- Submitting a paper or assignment for more than one class!
- Downloading or buying a term paper from the web.

Stated in simpler terms, plagiarism is stealing. Attempting to pass off others' work as if it were your own is fraud and grounds for academic discipline.

See [Plagiarism at Acadia - Student Guide](#), and also

[Plagiarism at Acadia - Faculty Guide](#)

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

In this course students will read one of the most intellectually challenging poems in the English language, John Milton's twelve-book epic poem *Paradise Lost*. Students will write and be graded on multiple short responses to their reading, and a final exam. Both your responses and your presentation of them will count for a high percentage of your final grade.

**COURSE TEXT:****REQUIREMENTS:**

Commentaries – 80%

All students registered in 2283.X2 will be required to compose a few sentences about at least one section of *Paradise Lost* for each day of class. **Failing to meet this requirement will make it impossible for you to pass this course.** In class, you will be required to re-iterate verbally what you have written. Please try to summarize or speak *about* what you have written, rather than simply reading it to us.

Comments must:

1. inform your reader who is speaking in the section of poem on which you are commenting; and
2. contribute something to our understanding of the passage under examination.

Comments might:

1. make connections to things outside the poem (you might explain classical or biblical references, for example, or suggest that the passage reminds you of something else you have read or experienced);
2. make connections to other parts of the poem (this is likely to happen more often in the latter parts of the poem than in the earlier parts);
3. question anything that is unclear (either to you personally, or more generally);
4. offer any relevant thought(s) that enlightens.

You are not required to summarize the passage or to provide its main point. Sometimes you might be able to do so, and you are encouraged to do so when possible; but doing so may prove quite difficult most of the time, so focus on the details and we'll let the larger picture emerge in class.

Rules:

- In the event you know you are going to miss a class, you are required to submit your commentary well before class so that the rest of class can read it in your absence.
- In the event you come down with a sudden illness, you will still be able to submit your commentary in advance provided you develop the habit of

preparing for class at least the day before. Since our class meetings start at 10:00 AM, developing this habit is nothing more than common sense.

- In the event a 16-ton weight falls out of the sky and onto your head on your way to class in the morning, your absence and your failure to provide written commentary **may** be excused.
- If you fail to submit more than one commentary, you are required to visit the professor to discuss your situation. These commentaries will provide 80% of your final grade for ENGL 2283.X2.

Final Exam – 20%

There will be a final exam, and it is reproduced at the end of this course outline.

### **COURSE SCHEDULE:**

T, Jan. 6	Introduction
Th, Jan. 8	Book I
T, Jan. 13	
Th, Jan. 15	Book II
T, Jan. 20	
Th, Jan. 22	Book III
T, Jan. 27	Book IV
Th, Jan. 29	
T, Feb. 3	Book V
Th, Feb. 5	
T, Feb. 10	Book VI
Th, Feb. 12	
T, Feb. 17	Reading Week
Th, Feb. 19	
T, Feb. 24	Book VII
Th, Feb. 26	
T, Mar. 3	Book VIII
Th, Mar. 5	
T, Mar. 10	Book IX
Th, Mar. 12	
T, Mar. 17	Book X
Th, Mar. 19	
T, Mar. 24	Book XI
Th, Mar. 26	
T, Mar. 31	Book XII; Wrap-up
Th, Apr. 2	
Final Exam	

ENGL 2283.X2 - Final Exam  
Winter 2015  
3 hours

Answer all questions. In every answer, include quotations from the poem. You may use your copy of *Paradise Lost* and a dictionary for this exam. Remember to apportion your time appropriately. All questions must be answered or the exam mark will be zero. Each question will count as much as all others toward your exam mark.

- 1) The thesis of *Paradise Lost* is an attempt to “justify the ways of God to men.”  
Argue that the poem succeeds.
- 2) The thesis of *Paradise Lost* is an attempt to “justify the ways of God to men.”  
Argue that the poem fails.
- 3) Argue in favour of the assertion that Eve is most culpable for humanity’s Fall in *Paradise Lost*.
- 4) Argue against the assertion that Eve is most culpable for humanity’s Fall in *Paradise Lost*.
- 5) God can foreknow and humans can have free will.
- 6) If God foreknows, humanity does not have freewill.
- 7) What did you learn from reading *Paradise Lost*?