



Proseminar "The Poet Blind, Yet Bold" – John Milton

Course syllabus

Read and prepare texts and assignments FOR the respective week.

📖 = mandatory texts, to be prepared for class; text is either contained in your reader (R) or in the *Norton Critical Edition of Paradise Lost*.

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| 01 | 03.05. | Preliminaries, presentation topics, introduction |
| 02 | 10.05. | <i>Paradise Lost</i> Books I-II: Pagan Epic, Christian Themes? Laying the Foundations 📖 Fay Weldon, "Sympathy for the Devil – A Tutorial" (R) |
| 03 | 17.05. | <i>Paradise Lost</i> Books III-V: Of the Devil's Party? Satan as Romantic Hero → PRES: Hero or Fool? Receptions of Milton's Satan 📖 C.S. Lewis, "Satan" (NCE, 401-6) 📖 Balachandra Rajan, "The Problem of Satan" (NCE, 407-13) optional reading: Werblowsky, "Hero and Fool" (R) |
| 04 | 24.05. | <i>Paradise Lost</i> Books VI-IX: The Fortunate Fall? Curiosity and Sin → PRES: Female Curiosity as Original Sin? An Analysis of the Character of Eve in <i>Paradise Lost</i> 📖 Roger Shattuck, "Milton in the Garden of Eden" (R) |
| 05 | 31.05. | <i>Paradise Lost</i> Books VI-IX: Milton and Gender → PRES: Misogynist Milton? Feminist Readings of <i>Paradise Lost</i> → (Optional): "Mary Shelley's Monstrous Eve" – Connections of <i>Frankenstein</i> and <i>Paradise Lost</i> 📖 Christine Froula, "When Eve Reads Milton" (R) 📖 Edward Pechter, "When Pechter Reads Froula Pretending She's Eve Reading Milton" (R) 📖 extract from Mary Shelley, <i>Frankenstein</i> helpful extra reading: Gilbert & Gubar, Ch. 6 "Milton's Bogey" from <i>The Madwoman in the Attic</i> (187-212) (R) |
| 06 | 07.06. | <i>Paradise Lost</i> Books X-XII: "Full of Doubt I Stand" - Interpreting <i>Paradise Lost</i> → PRES: <i>Paradise Lost</i> and Reader-Response-Criticism: "The Interpretative Choice" by Stanley Fish 📖 Stanley Fish, "The Interpretative Choice" (R) |
| | 14.06. | no class ("Pfingstdienstag", "bergfrei") |
| 07 | 21.06. | Research Paper Writing: Unit 1 |

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| 08 | 28.06. | "Dream Not of Other Worlds" - Pullman, Northern Lights (I) → PRES: Religious Elements in <i>Northern Lights</i> and Their Meanings |
| 09 | 05.07. | Pullman, Northern Lights (II) → PRES: Knowledge in <i>Northern Lights</i> and <i>Paradise Lost</i> → (optional): "Of the Devil's Party And Knowing It" - Intertextuality between <i>His Dark Materials</i> and <i>Paradise Lost</i> <u>Decide on a term paper topic by Thursday, 07/07/2011!</u> |
| 10 | 12.07. abstract due! | Writing Against Censure: Milton's <i>Areopagitica</i> → PRES: The Argument of Milton's <i>Areopagitica</i> and its Historical and Political Background  <i>Areopagitica</i> (NCE, 339 ff) |
| 11 | 19.07. | <i>Paradise Regained</i> → PRES: The Underrated Sequel? Milton's <i>Paradise Regained</i>  Extracts from <i>Paradise Regained</i> (to be announced on StudOn) |
| 12 | 26.07. | Research Paper Writing: Unit 2 |

Term Paper / Hausarbeit

Deadline for all **term paper topics is Thursday, July 7th**. I expect you to come up with your own suggestions (papers can, but do not have to be based on your presentations). All topics must be **approved** during my **office hour** (Thursday, 10.15-11, C3A3). I will not accept papers on unapproved topics. Deadline for **term paper submission is September 15th**.

Coursework

Presentation: all students must give a 15-minute presentation or co-presentation, held in English, using an English primary text.

A **handout** complete with **bibliography, formatted according to MLA style** must be submitted **by Friday, 12 o'clock, the week before your presentation**. Handouts are to be submitted by e-mail (simone.broders@angl.phil.uni-erlangen.de) in **Microsoft Word (*.doc) or Rich Text Format (*.rtf) to allow corrections. No Open Office documents!**

Should you wish to use the multimedia equipment, make sure your presentation is in PowerPoint format with all your fonts embedded into the file. It may be advisable to bring a PDF version of your file as well as old-fashioned but reliable overhead transparencies.

Recap: every week, one student will present a 3-minute recap of the previous week's course meeting. No media needed, concentrate on results, not approaches.

Written coursework: all students must submit an **abstract** on the topic of their research paper. An **abstract** is a brief outline of your future research paper. It describes the focus of your paper as well as the methods with which you are going to approach your topic. You are not required to give any final results yet, just hint at possible conclusions or answers.

Write 250-300 words. Make sure you define all the terminology you use. Indicate your passage and all quotations **in MLA style**. Print your abstract on a sheet of paper, 1,5 spaced, font Arial or Times New Roman 12 pt, leave margins of top and bottom 2cm, left 2,5 cm and right 3,5 cm and **bring your abstract to class in printed form to be collected.**