Course Description:
The age of Milton was also the age of Bacon, of Descartes, of Galileo (Galileo is the only contemporary of Milton referred to in \textit{Paradise Lost}); the age of the New Science.

As opposed to older critical views about \textit{Paradise Lost}, the current critical consensus is that Milton engaged deeply and carefully in his biblical epic with the scientific ideas of his time; early modern ideas about empiricism, space, matter, and cosmology. Milton superimposed the biblical and ancient Greek material of his epic poem on the early modern cosmological science of his day—just as I've superimposed this depiction of his epic poem's theological landscape (complete with Heaven, Hell and Paradise) on a modern Hubble image of the Eagle Nebula.

In this course, we'll read \textit{Paradise Lost} (along with some other important works by Milton) with an eye to its relevance to what science was in Milton's time, and by extension, to what science means in our time, with some specific discussion of how the poetry still speaks to theories and questions posed on the cutting edge of current cosmological physics; theories about the possibility of a multiverse of different universes, about the expansion or inflation of the universe and about the symmetry of space. In other words, we'll explore how \textit{Paradise Lost} brings together the discourses of science and of imaginative literature, making this epic poem the granddaddy of all science fiction.
Required Text:


Grading and Assignments:

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<th>Percentage Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>100-93%</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>92-90%</td>
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<td>89-88%</td>
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<td>87-83%</td>
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New Science research paper (2-3 pages) 15% of total course grade
Milton criticism paper (3-4 pages) 25%
final paper and presentation (7-8 pages) 45%
quizzes and participation assignments 15%

As we carefully read and discuss Milton’s poetry, with particular (but not exclusive) attention to scientific ideas and themes, your work will build toward a 7-8 page essay that you will present, conference-style before your peers at the end of the semester. Your essay should address a particular aspect of Paradise Lost in terms of scientific context, literary criticism and (most importantly) the language of the poem.

In order to help you develop this final project, I will assign you to write two preliminary papers throughout the semester that will introduce you to research material in the areas of early modern science and of Milton criticism, and that will hopefully provide you with some material that you can use in your final essay.

Meanwhile, to encourage your regular engagement with all the course material, I will give brief reading quizzes (usually unannounced and open book) and other in-class participation assignments. You will receive a weekly participation grade for all the quizzes and participation assignments that you complete each week.

Late Work:
I encourage you to keep on schedule with the papers, as they are building toward one final project, but I will give you reasonable extensions on the deadlines of the two preliminary papers, if you ask me in advance of their due dates. If you do not arrange an extension with me, I will take these papers late for only 3/4 credit. Since the final paper will be presented in class, it must be completed by the day you are scheduled to present, in order to receive full points. 5 of the 45 points possible for this paper will be for its oral presentation, and if you do not present on time, you will lose those points.

I will not allow you to make up quizzes or participation assignments, as their purpose is to insure and track your regular attendance and engagement with the course and material. However, emergencies do come up, so I will drop every student’s lowest weekly participation grade.
Course Schedule:
I may make changes to the reading assignments and paper deadlines on this schedule, as the semester progresses and our needs as a course evolve. Any changes will be announced in class.

Week 1: Introduction to Milton’s Poetic Worlds
M (1/6) Introduction, “When I consider how my light is spent”
W (1/8) Nativity Ode

Weeks 2-4: “Space may produce new worlds”
M (1/13) “The Universe and the Bucket,” by physicist Brian Greene (Canvas)
W (1/15) Paradise Lost Book I
M (1/20) MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY – NO CLASS
W (1/22) Paradise Lost Book I
M (1/27) Paradise Lost Book II
W (1/29) Paradise Lost Book II; NEW SCIENCE RESEARCH PAPER DUE

Week 5: Eternity as the Outside of Infinity
M (2/3) Paradise Lost Book III
W (2/5) Paradise Lost Book IV

Weeks 6-7: Creation, Matter, Meter
M (2/10) Paradise Lost Book V
W (2/12) Paradise Lost Book VI
M (2/17) PRESIDENTS' DAY – NO CLASS
W (2/19) Paradise Lost Book VII; MILTON CRITICISM PAPER DUE

Weeks 8-10: Copernican and Anthropic Reasoning
M (2/22) Paradise Lost Book VIII
W (2/24) Paradise Lost Book VIII
M (3/2) Paradise Lost Book IX
W (3/4) Paradise Lost Book IX
M (3/9) SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS
W (3/11) SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS

Weeks 11-12: Entropy and Symmetry, Fall and Redemption

M (3/16) *Paradise Lost Book X*
W (3/18) *Paradise Lost Books XI, XII*

M (3/23) *Paradise Lost Book XII, Areopagitica*
W (3/25) *Areopagitica; FINAL PAPER DUE*

Week 13: Coda – *Paradise Regained, Space and Motion*

M (3/30) *Paradise Regained Books I, II*
W (4/1) *Paradise Regained Books III, IV*

Weeks 14-16: Milton and Science – A Course Conference

M (4/6) Presentations
W (4/8) Presentations
M (4/13) Presentations
W (4/15) Presentations
M (4/20) Presentations

Course Policies:

Plagiarism:
The University of Utah Student Code classifies plagiarism as “academic misconduct.” Plagiarism is defined in Part I.B.2.c of the Code as “the intentional unacknowledged use or incorporation of any other person's work in, or as a basis for, one's own work offered for academic consideration or credit or for public presentation. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, representing as one's own, without attribution, any other individual's words, phrasing, ideas, sequence of ideas, information or any other mode or content of expression.” Part V.B of the Code stipulates that students guilty of plagiarism “may be subject to academic sanctions including but not limited to a grade reduction, failing grade, probation, suspension or dismissal from the program or the University, or revocation of the student's degree or certificate. Sanctions may also include community service, a written reprimand, and/or a written statement of misconduct that can be put into an appropriate record maintained for purposes of the profession or discipline for which the student is preparing.” (www.regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-400.html)

If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism, talk to me. Simply put, don’t cheat. It’s not worth it.
Content Accommodation Policy
“It is the student's obligation to determine, before the last day to drop courses without penalty, when course requirements conflict with the student's sincerely-held core beliefs. If there is such a conflict, the student should consider dropping the class.”
(http://www.regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-100.html)
For more information, please consult the University of Utah Regulations web site.

ADA Notice:
The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability & Access, 162 Olpin Union Building, 801-581-5020. CDA will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations.
All written information in this course can be made available in alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability & Access.

Campus Safety Statement
The University of Utah values the safety of all campus community members. To report suspicious activity or to request a courtesy escort, call campus police at 801-585-COPS (801-585-2677). You will receive important emergency alerts and safety messages regarding campus safety via text message. For more information regarding safety and to view available training resources, including helpful videos, visit safeu.utah.edu.

Addressing Sexual Misconduct
Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender (which includes sexual orientation and gender identity/expression) is a civil rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, color, religion, age, status as a person with a disability, veteran's status or genetic information. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator in the Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action, 135 Park Building, 801-581-8365, or the Office of the Dean of Students, 270 Union Building, 801-581-7066. For support and confidential consultation, contact the Center for Student Wellness, SSB 328, 801-581-7776. To report to the police, contact the Department of Public Safety, 801-585-2677(COPS).