



## 1. Course Information

### Course Information

MILTON'S MINOR POEMS 3339G  
Winter 2023  
UC 3325 Tuesday 11:30-12:20 Thursday 10:30-12:20

### List of Prerequisites

Prerequisite(s): At least 60% in 1.0 of English 1020-1999 or permission of the Department.

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

## 2. Instructor Information

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Instructors	Email	Office	Phone	Office Hours
Professor John Leonard	<a href="mailto:jleonard@uwo.ca">jleonard@uwo.ca</a> Please do not email me on weekends	Office hours will be held by Zoom due to the pandemic		TBA
Tom Prime	Tprime2@uwo.ca			TBA

Students must use their Western ([@uwo.ca](mailto:@uwo.ca)) email addresses when contacting their instructors. I do my best to answer emails promptly but I DO NOT ANSWER EMAIL ON EVENINGS OR WEEKENDS.

## 3. Course Syllabus, Schedule, Delivery Mode

### Course Description

This course is intended to be a complement to 3321F (my course on *Paradise Lost*), though neither course is a prerequisite for the other and it does not matter in which order they are taken, should any students decide to take both. The course will fall into three parts: 1) a close reading of the early poems (especially “L’Allegro” and “Il Penseroso,” *A Masque Presented at Ludlow Castle [Comus]*, “Lycidas”, and the English sonnets); 2) a close reading of *Areopagitica*, Milton’s prose pamphlet defending free speech; 3) a close reading of *Paradise Regained* and *Samson Agonistes*. Emphasis throughout the course will be placed on Milton’s lasting relevance for our own time. 3 hours, 0.5 course

### **Learning Outcomes**

John Milton is the most learned English poet, but his poetry warns us to be suspicious of sharp sophisters who promise to deliver “learning outcomes.” Eve lost Paradise when she fell for the line: “Ye shall be as gods, knowing both good and evil as they know.” Satan again pushes “learning outcomes” in *Paradise Regained*, when he offers to teach Jesus all about Greek philosophy. To the dismay of many critics, Jesus turns him down: “Think not but that I know these things, or think / I know them not; not therefore am I short / Of knowing what I ought” (4.286-8). Jesus adds that Socrates was the “wisest” philosopher because he “professed / To know this only, that he nothing knew” (4.293-4). Milton in *Areopagitica* insists that true learning consists of the process, not the outcome. “Truth,” he writes, “is compared in Scripture to a streaming fountain; if her waters flow not in a perpetual progression, they sicken into a muddy pool of conformity and tradition.” Who should we trust? Satan? Or Milton and Socrates? I never tell students what to think, but this course just might equip you with sufficient learning to decide for yourselves. You will at least learn how to unravel the knotty grammar and syntax of the lines I have just quoted.

### **Course Schedule**

Please see the separate Word document entitled “Course Schedule.”

### **Important Sessional Dates**

Classes begin: January 9, 2023  
 Reading Week: February 18 – 26, 2023  
 Classes end: April 10, 2023  
 There will NO EXAM for this course.

### **Contingency plan for an in-person class pivoting to 100% online learning**

In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence during the course that necessitates the course delivery moving away from face-to-face interaction, affected course content will be delivered entirely online, either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable)

or asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience). The grading scheme will **not** change. Any remaining assessments will also be conducted online as determined by the course instructor.

## 4. Course Materials

### Texts and Materials (required and recommended)

- i. John Milton, *The Complete Poems* (Penguin, 1998). Purchased through bookstore.
- ii. John Milton, *Areopagitica*.

### OWL

Students are responsible for checking the course OWL site (<http://owl.uwo.ca>) on a regular basis for news and updates. This is the primary method by which information will be disseminated to all students in the class.

Powerpoints and other materials (such as critical essays) will be posted to OWL:

<http://owl.uwo.ca>.

If students need assistance with the course OWL site, they can seek support on the OWL Help page. Alternatively, they can contact the Western Technology Services Helpdesk. They can be contacted by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800.

### **Technical Requirements**

A computer with internet access.

## 5. Methods of Evaluation

### Course Requirements

The overall course grade will be calculated as listed below.

Assessment	Format	Weighting	Due date
Short Essay	1500 words.	25%	
Long Essay	2500 words.	40%	
Quizzes	Best 3	15%	Unannounced

In-class presentation  
**OR** exegesis of a passage



and cognitive testing. The policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities can be found at:

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/Academic\\_Accommodation\\_disabilities.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic_Accommodation_disabilities.pdf).

## 7. Academic Policies

The website for Registrarial Services is <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>.

In accordance with policy,

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/policies\\_procedures/section1/mapp113.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/policies_procedures/section1/mapp113.pdf),

the centrally administered e-mail account provided to students will be considered the individual's official university e-mail address. It is the responsibility of the account holder to ensure that e-mail received from the University at their official university address is attended to in a timely manner.

Electronic devices may not be used when answering quizzes.

### **Academic Offences**

**Scholastic offences** are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf).

### **Statement on the use of plagiarism-checking software**

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

## 8. Support Services

### **Academic Counselling**

Your Home Faculty's Academic Counselling or Academic Advising Office will support or refer whenever you have an issue that is affecting your studies, including information on adding/dropping courses, academic considerations for absences, appeals, exam conflicts, and many other academic related matters. Do not hesitate to reach out to them if you are struggling and unsure where to go for help. Contact info for all Faculties is here:

[https://registrar.uwo.ca/faculty\\_academic\\_counselling.html](https://registrar.uwo.ca/faculty_academic_counselling.html)

### **Mental Health Support**

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western (<https://uwo.ca/health/>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

### **Gender-based and sexual violence**

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at

[https://www.uwo.ca/health/student\\_support/survivor\\_support/get-help.html](https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html).

To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact [support@uwo.ca](mailto:support@uwo.ca).

### **Accessible Education**

Please contact the course instructor if you require lecture or printed material in an alternate format or if any other arrangements can make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Accessible Education at

[http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible\\_education/index.html](http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html)

if you have any questions regarding accommodations.

### **Learning Development and Success**

Counsellors at the Learning Development and Success Centre (<https://learning.uwo.ca>) are ready to help you improve your learning skills. They offer presentations on strategies for improving time management, multiple-choice exam preparation/writing, textbook reading, and more. Individual support is offered throughout the Fall/Winter terms in the drop-in Learning Help Centre, and year-round through individual counselling.

### **Digital Student Experience**

Western University is committed to a thriving campus as we deliver our courses in the mixed model of both virtual and face-to-face formats. We encourage you to check out the Digital Student Experience website to manage your academics and well-being:

<https://www.uwo.ca/se/digital/>.

### **USC**

Additional student-run support services are offered by the USC,  
<https://westernusc.ca/services/>.