

Spring 2018 Heyman Center Friends/Carl Hovde Colloquium

John Milton

Thursdays, 5-7 p.m.

Professor Julie Crawford

Course Description:

This colloquium will be led by Julie Crawford, the Mark Van Doren Professor of Humanities and current Chair of Literature Humanities. The seventeenth-century writer John Milton was famous first as a revolutionary and polemicist, and, later, as a poet. In this class we will look first at his famous defense of a free press, *Areopagitica* (1644), and then at his great epic poem, *Paradise Lost* (1667). *Paradise Lost* is at once a biting indictment of political turpitude, tyranny and war-mongering; a brilliant (and somewhat heretical) account of a vitalist universe; a revision of the entire epic tradition, including the very nature of heroism; an unsparing examination of Christian theology; and a love story that refuses easy pronouncements about gender and sexuality.

This colloquium will meet in the Heyman Center from 5 to 7 p.m. on the following Thursdays: January 18th; February 8th; February 22nd; March 8th; March 22nd; April 12th, with April 26th reserved as a make-up day if needed.

Required text:

Stephen Orgel and Jonathan Goldberg (eds.). *John Milton: The Major Works*. Oxford World's Classics. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008. \$18.95. ISBN 978-0-19-953918-5. If you wish, as well, to read online, this is a great resource:
http://www.dartmouth.edu/~milton/reading_room/contents/text.shtml#paradiseLost

Thursday January 18: *Areopagitica*, with special attention to the pamphlet's attitudes towards physical books (and if they are consistent); its imagery; and its addressee/s.

Thursday February 8: *Paradise Lost*, Books 1-2. (Estimate at least three hours of reading per book).

Thursday February 22: *Paradise Lost*, Books 3-5. Read handout on *Genesis*.

Thursday March 08: *Paradise Lost*, Book 6-8. Read handout on "The Ecology of *Paradise Lost*."

Thursday March 22: *Paradise Lost*, Book 9-10. Read handout on "Gender and Relations Between the Sexes in *Paradise Lost*." Read Claudius's chapel speech in *Hamlet* (3.3).

Thursday April 12: *Paradise Lost*, Books 11-12.