

## Department of English &amp; Writing Studies

**Paradise Lost**  
**English 3321F (001)**  
Fall 2019**Instructor:** John Leonard**Course Date/Time:** Tuesday 1:30-2:20 and  
Thursday 1:30-3:20**Course Location:** University College 3225**Antirequisites:** The former English 3224E, the former English 3228F/G.**Prerequisites:** 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.

**Learning Outcomes:**

Satan knew all about “learning outcomes.” That was what he promised Eve: “ye shall be as gods, / Knowing both good and evil as they know” (*Paradise Lost*, 9.708-9). This course will not turn you into gods, but it might equip you with the intellectual armour to protect yourselves against con-artists (devils, serpents, politicians) who make hollow promises about “outcomes.” The point is not that there never is an outcome. On the contrary, there always is one, but it usually turns out to be different from what was promised: “O much deceived, much failing, hapless Eve, / Of thy presumed return! event perverse!” (9.404-6). “Event” there literally means “outcome” (Latin *e[x]*, “out” + *venire*, “to come”), while “perverse” (Latin *pervertere*, “turn about”) means “opposite.” Only perverse smooth talkers promise “outcomes.” But the present course does have objectives. By the end of the course, successful students should be able:

- To develop an appreciation of *Paradise Lost* that unites historical observation and literary analysis. Emphasis will be placed on style, genre (the epic), and interpretative issues.
- To hone analytical and critical skills in both oral and written work.
- To develop confidence and competence in research practice.
- To learn a few Latin etymologies that come in handy when fobbing off perverse politicians.

**Course Materials**

Any good annotated edition of *Paradise Lost* (not abridged, not an anthology) is acceptable. The bookstore has copies of my Penguin edition (2000).

### Methods of Evaluation

The grade for the course will be arrived at as follows:

Short Essay, 1500 words	25%
Long Essay, 2500 words	40%
Quizzes (best 5 out of 6)	15%
Participation	10%
OWL forum discussion	10%

This class meets twice a week. Students should come to lecture prepared to participate in group discussion: read the assigned portions of the text in advance of class, and always bring the right text(s) to class with you.

Quizzes (10%): We will have six quizzes. The best five grades will count. There are six quizzes to accommodate people who miss one due to sickness. In other words, accommodation is built into the course, so you do not need to seek academic accommodation if you miss one quiz. The quizzes will be unannounced (to encourage attendance), but distributed more or less equally throughout the term. Quizzes will cover our current work and may be based on readings for the day the quiz is given (so be prepared for class).

OWL forum (10%): I shall set up a forum discussion group on OWL and propose various questions for discussion there. Each student will be expected to submit a minimum of FIVE short posts (50 words approx.) in response to these questions, taking up other students' points. The idea is to foster discussion that can then feed into classroom discussion. You will be graded on your best FIVE posts (hence the minimum).

### **Note: there is no final exam for the course**

Students are fully responsible for looking at and being familiar with the information posted on the department website at <http://www.uwo.ca/english/undergraduate/Student%20Information.html>.

### Additional Information

Regular attendance is expected and will inevitably have an influence on participation grades (since if you do not attend class, it will be very difficult to participate). Laptops are permitted if there is an academic need for them (they can be useful for quickly accessing material relevant to the course), but Facebook and texting in class will not be tolerated. Sorry to have to say this. It should never need to be said, but I have learned from experience that it needs to be said.

### **Late Paper Policy:**

Late assignments. If you submit a paper after the due date but within two weeks of it, the paper will be counted as late and the following procedures will apply:

- The paper will not be read until all the assignments handed in on time have been read and returned (all papers are read in order of receipt).
- The paper will be read and a grade given, but NO COMMENTS OR CORRECTIONS will be made on it.
- The grade will be reduced by a penalty of two marks (2%) for each calendar day that it is late. Note that when a paper is late, every day counts (including weekends); however, the arrangements for date-stamping essays in the Department of English essay box are accepted for late essays.

PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED IF SUBMITTED MORE THAN TWO WEEKS AFTER THE DUE DATE UNLESS PRIOR ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE.

### Accommodation

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the Office of the Dean of the student's Faculty of registration, together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. The UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and further information regarding this policy can be found at [http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_medical.pdf](http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf).

### **Downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC):**

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf)

### 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

[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)

### **Plagiarism:**

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence.

### **Plagiarism Checking:**

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>.

All instances of plagiarism will be reported to the Chair of Undergraduate Studies. Proven cases of plagiarism will result in a grade of zero for the assignment. Subsequent offences will result in failure for the course.

### Support Services

Registrarial Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services <https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login>

Services provided by the USC <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Student Development Centre <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to MentalHealth@Western: <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

## Timetable

### SEPTEMBER

- 5 Introduction. What kind of Poem is *Paradise Lost*? What is Milton trying to do and how is he trying to do it?
- 10 Book I Milton's Epic Style
- 12 Book I Satan and Epic Heroism
- 17 Book II Debate in Hell
- 19 Book II Debate (cont'd), Recreation in Hell, Sin, Death, Chaos
- 24 Book III Invocation and Council in Heaven. "The Free Will Defence"
- 26 Book III Satan's Journey. Milton's Multiverse. Epic Similes

### OCTOBER

- 1 Book IV Satan in Paradise. Satan's first three soliloquies
- 3 Book IV Adam and Eve in Paradise. Innocence and Experience
- 8 Book V Eve's Dream. A fall before the Fall?
- 10 Book V Morning Hymn and Raphael's Visit. Eroticism in Paradise
- 15 Book V. Satan's Revolt. How and Why did the angels fall? **Short Essay Due**
- 17 Books V and VI Satan debates Abdiel. The War in Heaven.
- 22 Book VII Invocation and Creation
- 24 Books VIII (and earlier books) Astronomy
- 29 Book VIII Adam's first memories. The creation of Eve
- 31 Book VIII Sexual desire in Paradise and Heaven. Are angels "queer"?

### NOVEMBER

- 5 STUDY WEEK
- 7 STUDY WEEK
- 12 Book IX Induction and Satan's fourth soliloquy (9.99-178)
- 14 Book IX Argument about Working Separately and Eve's Fall
- 19 Book IX Eve's Fall (continued): Satan as con-man
- 21 Book IX Adam's Fall
- 26 Book IX Similes and Style **Long Essay Due**
- 28 Book X Judgment and Satan's Triumph. Adam's Lament

### DECEMBER

- 3 Books XI and XII "an untransmuted lump"? A "fortunate Fall"?
- 5 Conclusions