

## **John Milton's *Paradise Lost* – textual subtleties and anxieties**

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Winter Term, two units per week

**Time:** Monday, Tuesday or Thursday pm (to be discussed at the introductory meeting)

English-Department students are welcome to join this seminar, which will be held at the Institute of Translation Studies, Faculty of Arts, 3 Hybernska, Prague 1. The seminar is intended for 2<sup>nd</sup>- or 3<sup>rd</sup>-year undergraduates.

Introductory meeting: Thursday, 1 October, 15.50, Hybernská 3, room 204 –

### *OBJECTIVES*

This is a close-reading seminar. It aims to illuminate Milton's *Paradise Lost* and show how innovative Milton is in his use of language and poetic form, as well as in his treatment of the simple Genesis story. We shall analyse selected passages and discuss the problems that the text raises in the presentation of Satan, the Father and the Son, and in the treatment of Adam and Eve's union and sexuality.

The seminar may mostly attract poetry lovers, but it is intended for anyone who wishes to discover how intricate Milton's poetry is, and for all those who want to learn more about **the greatest epic poet in the English language** – a controversial figure whose example and ideas have not ceased to inspire poets, writers and thinkers even **four hundred years** after his birth.

Students interested in Czech literature or translation will also be able to learn about Josef Jungmann's 1811 translation.

Please note that this is a **literature** seminar, **not** a course in religious studies!

### *MATERIAL*

John Milton, *Paradise Lost*; selected prose and criticism, handouts.

### *ASSESSMENT*

**3 credits:** Students will be required to read about 500 to 1,000 lines per week and participate in seminar discussions. You may obtain **4 credits** in return for **written work**.