

ENGL 2200 British Literature II
The Anatomy of the World
Winter Quarter, 2016
T / R 10:00 – 11:50
SH 234

W. Scott Howard
Department of English
showard@du.edu / 303-871-2887
<https://portfolio.du.edu/showard>
SH 387-E

Essay 2: *Of Liberty and License*

Texts:

Damrosch: Introduction, 622-35, 644-48 and 636-44, 649

Damrosch: Milton's shorter poems, 1698-1716, especially "L'Allegro," "Il Penseroso," "Lycidas," "On Time," "How Soon Hath Time," and "When I Consider." These may also be found at the *Milton Reading Room*, in the selections from *Poems* (1645):

https://www.dartmouth.edu/~milton/reading_room/contents/text.shtml#poems1645

Paradise Lost: Books 1-4

Rivers: chapters 1, 2, 3, 6, 8, 9

Damrosch: *The Civil War, or the Wars of Three Kingdoms*, 1678-98

Guidelines:

Within the scope of Milton's shorter poems and the first four books of *Paradise Lost*, which kinds of liberty matter most and why? For whom? Within which particular contexts? And, perhaps most importantly, how do Milton's works challenge the limits of transgression –*know to know no more*—and the dialectic between liberty and license?

Provide evidence (i.e. direct quotation) from: *Paradise Lost*, two of Milton's shorter poems, Damrosch's Introduction, at least one of the texts from the *The Civil War, or the Wars of Three Kingdoms* section in Damrosch's anthology, and at least one of the chapters in Rivers's *Classical and Christian Ideas in English Renaissance Poetry*. Milton's work should receive primary emphasis in your essay that places your interpretation within a context shaped by a topic of your choice.

Length: 3 pages (not including your Works Cited page)

Specs.: Times new Roman font, 12 point; double-spaced; 1" margins; hard copy, pages stapled. MLA parenthetical citation and works cited format.

Due: Thursday, January 21