

JOHN MILTON WITHOUT PARADISE

Coordinator: Carol Schoen

Milton's epic poem, *Paradise Lost*, so overshadows his career that his many contributions in other areas are frequently ignored. Partly to right the balance, this study group considers some of his seminal essays, his great elegy *Lycidas*, and his tragic poem *Samson Agonistes*. We note the audacity and the extraordinary range of Milton's achievements and realize that much of his work resonates in modern life.

Readings:

John Milton, The Major Works; Oxford, 2008

ISBN-13: 978-0199539185, \$18.95

Richard Bradford, *John Milton*; Routledge, 2001, ISBN 0-415-20244-2, \$29.95.

Carol Schoen, BA Radcliffe College, PhD Columbia University, has coordinated numerous study groups, mostly, but not limited to, literature.

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Week 1: Brief life; Milton, the political pamphleteer: reading "Areopagitica"
Are Milton's arguments for free speech still valid for terrorist 21st century?

Week 2 ; "On the Morning of Christ's Nativity" and other short works. "How does Milton use this poem to cover three different time periods?"

Week 3: essays on the right to kill tyrants ,and divorce. Are these essays written 400 years ago still relevant?

Week 4 "Lycidas" although theoretically an elegy, other subjects are discussed; how and why?

Weeks 5/6 *Samson Agonistes* To appreciate the beauty of the poetry and the tragic subject of great men brought low.