

ENGLISH 320: Restoration and Eighteenth-Century Literature

WINTER 2019

Instructor: D. Dyck

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Class Location: A2212

Class Time: T/Th 9:45-11:00 am

Office Location: L2069

Office Hours: T/Th 1-2 pm

Texts:

Bunyan, *The Pilgrim's Progress*. Norton, 2009.

Sterne, *The Life and Opinions of Tristram Shandy*. Oxford, 2009.

Greenblatt et al., eds. *The Norton Anthology of English Literature: Volume C: The Restoration and Eighteenth Century*. 9th or 10th edition. Norton, 2012 or 2018.

Readings on Moodle (to be **printed** and brought to class)

Course Description:

This course gathers together the literature of the Restoration, the Augustan Age, and the Age of Sensibility. It begins with Bunyan and Behn and continues with Pope, Swift, and Dryden before ending with the late eighteenth-century prose writers, in particular, Boswell and Johnson. In addition to these canonical figures, we will also read works by several lesser-known writers of the period.

Students completing this course will:

- gain a broad knowledge of the authors, genres, themes, and movements of the English literature written during the Restoration and Eighteenth Century and understand the relationship of these to the social, political, and religious history of the period.
- gain familiarity with the prose and poetic styles of the period and their significance.
- consider the relationship of historical Christianity to the literature of the period.
- develop further the skill of literary analysis by practicing close reading and composing explication and research papers.
- develop further the skill of literary research by formulating questions, finding critical/historical texts, and interacting with the arguments of other scholars in a research essay.
- develop further the skill of oral communication through various classroom opportunities.

Course Requirements:

- Attend class. Always bring the relevant readings to class. If the relevant reading is a PDF (available on Moodle), print it out and bring it in hard copy.
- In addition to the assigned readings, you are responsible for the content of all lectures.
- The explication and research essay are due in hard copy at the beginning of class (and on Moodle), and must be submitted to receive a passing final grade in the course.
- The penalty for late assignments is one refined letter grade per class day late. Extensions may be granted on written assignments in exceptional circumstances.
- The most current version of this syllabus will always be available on Moodle. You are responsible for any changes to it announced in class (whether you are present or not).

Evaluation:

10% Reading Quizzes (best 5 @ 2% each)

The Course Schedule designates a number of dates on which I *may* give a reading quiz. It's unlikely there'll be a quiz on every one of these dates, but I will be sure to give at least five quizzes over the course of the term.

10% Explication Paper

You will write an explication paper of 1000 words on a key passage of your choosing from one of the following: Dryden, Bunyan, Rochester, or Behn. The explication paper is due on **Thursday, January 31st**, but you must submit a key passage for my approval by **Thursday, January 22nd** (at midnight).

More information on how to choose a key passage and the requirements for an explication paper may be found on the separate assignment sheet.

20% Midterm Exam

You will write a Midterm Exam on **Thursday, February 12th**.

30% Research Paper

You will write a research paper of roughly 3000 words on one of the following: (1) *The Way of the World*, (2) "A Modest Proposal," (3) "Eloisa to Abelard," or (4) *Rasselas*. The research paper is due on **Thursday, March 14th**.

More information on the requirements for this research paper may be found on the separate assignment sheet.

20% Final Exam

You will write a Final Exam on **Tuesday, April 9th @ 9 am in A2212**.

10% Participation

Participation is your visible engagement with the class and the texts: look alert, ask questions, share your thoughts (even if they're only half-formed), and visit my office to discuss the texts and your work. Participation requires attendance: skip classes and your grade will suffer.

*"Few things are impossible to diligence and skill.
Great works are performed not by strength, but by
perseverance."* — Samuel Johnson

Course Schedule:

Date	Genre	Pub.	Reading	Assignment
Jan				
3	Introductions	1650	Marvell, "An Horation Ode" (Moodle)	
8	Narrative Poetry/ Allegory	1681	Dryden, "Absalom and Achitophel" 9 th : pp. 2212-2236; 10 th : pp. 38-62	
10	Narrative Poetry/ Allegory	1681	Dryden, "Absalom and Achitophel"	
13			Last Day to Add/Drop with tuition refund	
15	Allegory	1678	Bunyan, <i>Pilgrim's Progress</i> pp. 5-68	
17	Allegory	1678	Bunyan, <i>Pilgrim's Progress</i> pp. 68-125	RQ?
22	Erotic Poetry	1680	Rochester, "The Imperfect Enjoyment" 9 th : pp. 2298-2300; 10 th : pp. 124-126 Behn, "The Disappointment" 9 th : pp. 2310-2313; 10 th : pp. 136-139	Explication Passage Due (midnight)
24	Program Day:		No Class	
29	Drama	1700	Congreve, <i>The Way of the World</i> , Acts 1-3 9 th : pp. 2360-2394; 10 th : pp. 187-223	
31	Drama	1700	Congreve, <i>The Way of the World</i> , Acts 4-5 9 th : pp. 2394-2420; 10 th : pp. 223-248	Explication Due
Feb				
5	Drama	1700	Congreve, <i>The Way of the World</i>	RQ?
7	Visual Art	1743-5	Hogarth, <i>Marriage A-la-Mode</i> 9 th : pp. 2833-2840; 10 th : pp. 703-710	
12			Midterm Exam	
14	Satire	1729	Swift, "A Modest Proposal" 9 th : pp. 2633-2639; 10 th : pp. 454-460	RQ?
19	Reading Week:		No Class	
21	Reading Week:		No Class	
26	Heroic Epistle	1717	Pope, "Eloisa to Abelard" 9 th : pp. 2705-2713; 10 th : pp. 526-534	RQ?
28	Philosophical Fable	1759	Johnson, <i>Rasselas</i> 9 th : pp. 2856-2923; 10 th : 734-800	
Mar				
5	Philosophical Fable	1759	Johnson, <i>Rasselas</i>	RQ?
7	Philosophical Fable	1759	Johnson, <i>Rasselas</i>	
11			Last Day to request revised time for a final exam	
12	Biography	1791	Boswell, <i>Life of Johnson</i> 9 th : pp. 2962-2992; 10 th : 832-862	
14	Hymn	1719, 1779	Watts, Various Hymns (Moodle) Cowper, Various Hymns (Moodle)	Research Paper Due

19	Journal/Letter	1768-1812	Burney, <i>From The Journal and Letters</i> 9 th : 2993-3011; 10 th : 940-958	RQ?
21	Visual Art	var.	Various Images (Moodle)	
22			Last Day to withdraw from courses without academic penalty	
26	Novel	1759	Sterne, <i>Tristram Shandy</i>	RQ?
28	Novel	1759	Sterne, <i>Tristram Shandy</i>	
Apr				
2	Novel	1759	Sterne, <i>Tristram Shandy</i>	
4	Conclusions		No Readings	

“The literature [...] of the late seventeenth and early eighteenth century is obsessed with the distinction between high and low art forms, and with shoring up the frontier between genuine literature, and mere ephemeral hack work. It is the period that, critics have argued, sees the invention of the category of ‘literature’: that is, the idea that some select native literary texts could be compared with classical greats.”



“The rest, by implication, would never stand the test of a week, let alone centuries of literary history. Yet it was also a period in which we see the creative exploitation of low cultural forms, literary works whose effect was dependent upon the juxtaposition of high and low within the same text.” (Abigail Williams)