

English 251
1:00-1:55 MWF
Payne Hall 2A

Prof. Tonya Howe
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Payne Hall 22
MWF 12:00-1:00; TR 3:00-4:00
& by appointment
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**Experiment and Exploration, Invention and Imagination:
British Literature in the Long Eighteenth Century**

The years between 1660 and 1832 were characterized in part by the rapid proliferation of print culture, the inauguration of “Enlightenment” thought, and the expansion of the British Empire through exploration and commerce. Writers of all kinds were interested in discovering and understanding a world that seemed to grow larger and more confusing by the day. This term, we will engage work by major and minor authors across a range of genres with an eye to understanding the interrelationship of experiment and exploration, invention and imagination during a period fascinated by each. Course requirements will include thoughtful participation, three formal essays, and a midterm as well as a final exam.

Texts: *Norton Anthology of English Literature*, Volumes 1C and 2A (available from W&L bookstore); Sterne, *The Sentimental Journey* (to be ordered from W&L bookstore); CoursePack (available from the English Department); online materials available via our BlackBoard site.

Optional Text: Roy Porter, *The Birth of the Modern World: The Untold Story of the British Enlightenment*

Course Requirements:	20%	Participation, Attendance, and Preparation (including Reading Quizzes and occasional brief writing assignments).
	10%	Group Discussion: Once during the term, each student will participate in a small group planning and facilitating 30 minutes of class discussion.
	40%	3 Papers
	30%	Midterm and Final Exams

Essay Assignments: This term, we will undertake three analytical essays dealing with the material assigned. You may choose your own topic, though it should in some way respond to one or more of the four class rubrics: invention, imagination, experiment, and exploration. More information is available on our BlackBoard site.

- The **first essay** (4-5 pgs) will take up one text and treat it in close, analytical detail. The text you choose should be properly documented in MLA format; all quotations should be fully integrated and explored in your essay.
- The **second essay** (5-6 pgs) will take up two texts of your choice and treat them in relation to one another. Your texts should be fully and properly cited in MLA format; all quotations should be fully integrated and explored in your essay.

- In your **third and final essay** (7-8 pgs), you will return to one of the first two essays, revising and expanding it with reference to the Romantic period. Again, your texts should be fully and properly cited in MLA format; all quotations should be fully integrated and explored in your essay.
- **A Note on Revision:** Revision is a process of re-seeing, of seeing again and through the lenses provided by later knowledge. I will not accept as complete any assignment that does not substantially re-see your earlier argument.

Team Discussion Leadership: At the beginning of the term, students will sign up in groups of 2 or 3 to lead discussion on their chosen texts. Each team of students will lead discussion for 30 minutes one time during the term. Discussion teams should meet outside of class to prepare for this presentation. For more information, see “Team Discussion Leadership” on our BlackBoard site.

Extra Credit: I will be offering extra credit to students who memorize and recite a 10-line passage from any poem we read during the term.

Assignments and Due Dates: All assignments must be typed and double-spaced, using a standard 12-point serifed font like Times New Roman. Margins must be reasonable, no more than 1.25 inches. Papers must include course information and a title at the top of the first page, not on a separate cover page. Any paper over two pages should be numbered. **Formal essays should be turned in to the secure L: drive space in Microsoft Word format by 5:00pm on the due date.** All other writing assignments, unless otherwise specified, should be turned in at the beginning of class on the due date. Due dates are strict: late work will be penalized, and very late work may not be accepted.

Attendance is mandatory. Please come to every class period. You have three “free” absences at your disposal. Each absence in excess of three will cause your final grade to go down a whole letter.

The 24-Hour Rule states that you may not come to me with questions or complaints about any given grade until 24 hours have lapsed since its return. You must come with specific questions and/or thoughtful replies to my comments.

Plagiarism: “Plagiarism” derives from the Latin “plagiarius,” meaning “kidnapper.” To plagiarize, as to kidnap, is a kind of stealing, and it is a fundamental transgression of both the Honor System and our intellectual community. Students are responsible for understanding the rules of appropriate citation and for turning in their own intellectual work. Any instance of plagiarism will meet with immediate disciplinary action. If you have any questions about this matter, including uncertainties about what constitutes plagiarism, please consult a writing handbook or ask me.

Readings: Homework for this class is indicated in the syllabus as it is assigned. Readings must be completed by the beginning of the class period during which we will discuss them. If you have any questions or concerns about your reading habits, please ask me.

Schedule

subject to change

A=Anthology; CP=CoursePack; Bb=BlackBoard

- F 9/9 Introductions, Course Overview
Syllabus/Plagiarism assignment (Bb); Read Sprat, "History of the Royal Society"
(CP)

Exploring the World

- M 9/12 Discuss the Royal Society
Read Locke (A), two pieces of your choice from the *Philosophical Transactions*
(Bb)
- W 9/14 Discuss Locke
Read Pepys (A and CP)
- F 9/16 Discuss Pepys
Read Ward, *The Wandering Spy* (CP)
- M 9/19 Discuss Ward; Introduction to Behn
Read *Oroonoko* (A)
- W 9/21 Discuss Behn
Finish reading *Oroonoko* (A)
- F 9/23 Discuss Behn
Phillips, "Friendship in Emblem"; Chudleigh, "To the Ladies" and "Friendship";
Finch, "Life's Progress"
- M 9/26 Discuss Poetry of Friendship
Read Behn, "To the Fair Clarinda, Who Made Love to Me, Imagined More than
Woman"; Rochester, "A Satire against Reason and Mankind" (CP);
- W 9/28 Discuss Rochester and Behn
Read Swift, "Description of a City Shower"; Begin reading "A Voyage to the
Country of the Houyhnhnms" from *Gulliver's Travels* (A)
- F 9/30 Discuss Swift
Finish Swift, "A Voyage to the Country of the Houyhnhnms" (A); read
introduction to Pope (A)

Exploring the Self in the World

- M 10/3 Discuss Swift; Intro to *The Dunciad*
Read Pope, *The Dunciad* Book I and the "Arguments to the Books" (A)

- W 10/5 Discuss Pope
Read Pope, "Epistle 2: To a Lady" (A); Finch, "Answer"; Leapor, "An Essay on Woman" (A)
- F 10/7 Discuss Finch and Leapor on Pope
Read Swift, "The Lady's Dressing Room" (A); Montagu, "The Reasons that Induced Dr. Swift to Write a Poem Called The Lady's Dressing Room" (A)
- M 10/10 Discuss Montagu on Swift
Read Montagu, the "Turkish Embassy Letters" (CP); read the introduction to Addison and Steele's *The Spectator* (A)
*** Essay 1 Due**
- W 10/12 Discuss Montagu's Letters
Read *The Spectator* 1, "Mr. Spectator Introduces Himself"; *Spectator* 69, "The Royal Exchange"; *Spectator* 3, "The Bank of England"; *Spectator* 11, "Inkle and Yarico"; *Spectator* 408, "The Fine Taste in Writing"; *Spectator* 50, "The Indian Kings in London" (CP)
- F 10/14 Reading Day – No Classes
- M 10/17 Discuss *The Spectator*
Begin reading Gay, *The Beggar's Opera* (A)
*** Midterm Exam Due (My Office Door or Mailbox by NOON)**
- W 10/19 Discuss Gay; Hogarth
Continue reading *The Beggar's Opera* (A); Hogarth engravings (CP)
- F 10/21 Discuss Gay and Hogarth
Finish *The Beggar's Opera* (A)

Critical Encounters

- M 10/24 Discuss Gay
Read introduction to Johnson (A); *The Rambler* numbers 4 (A) and 137 (CP); "Of the Duty of a Journalist" (CP)
- W 10/26 Discuss Johnson
Read Johnson, the preface to and excerpts from the *Dictionary* (CP)
- F 10/28 Discuss the *Dictionary*
Read Johnson, *The Idler* numbers 88 and 103 (CP); *The Rambler* numbers 170 and 171 (CP)
- M 10/31 Discuss Sentimentalism

Begin reading Sterne, *The Sentimental Journey*

- W 11/2 Discuss Sterne
Continue reading Sterne, *The Sentimental Journey*; read Sancho (A)
- F 11/4 Discuss Sterne
Finish reading Sterne, *The Sentimental Journey*; Begin reading Equiano (A)
- M 11/7 Discuss Sterne and Equiano
Read Equiano, from *The Interesting Narrative* (CP); Thomson, “Rule, Britannia” (A)
*** Essay 2 Due**

Exploring the World of the Self

- W 11/9 Discuss Equiano and Thomson
Read Gray, “Elegy Written in a Country Church Yard” (A); Cowper (TBA)
- F 11/11 Discuss Gray and Cowper
Read Smart, “My Cat Jeoffry” from *Jubilate Agno* (A); de Quincey, “Confessions of an English Opium Eater” (A); Burney from *Letters* (TBA)
- M 11/14 Discuss Burney, Smart, de Quincey
Read Crabbe, excerpt from “The Village” (A)
- W 11/16 Discuss Crabbe
Read Goldsmith, excerpt from “The Deserted Village” (A)
- F 11/18 Discuss Goldsmith and Crabbe
Read materials on the French Revolution: Burke (A) and Wollstonecraft (A); introduction to Romanticism (A)

// Thanksgiving Break – No Classes

- M 11/28 Discuss French Revolution and Romanticism
Read Wordsworth, “Tintern Abbey” (A)
- W 11/30 Discuss Wordsworth
Read Shelley, from “A Defence of Poetry” (A); Keats, “On First Looking into Chapman’s Homer” and “Ode on a Grecian Urn” (A)
- F 12/2 Discuss Shelley and Keats
Begin reading M. Shelley, *Frankenstein* (A)
- M 12/5 Discuss *Frankenstein*
Continue reading *Frankenstein* (A)

W 12/7 Discuss *Frankenstein*
Finish reading *Frankenstein* (A)

F 12/9 Conclusions
*** Essay 3 Due**

Final Exams Due 12/16