ENGLISH 410: The Augustan Age

SYLLABUS for 1976-77

I. Rationale

This course provides a study of representative major works and trends of English literature between 1660 and 1800, with the exclusion of Bunyan and Blake, whose works are left to other courses.

While organized principally on a chronological basis, the course still places great emphasis on the nature of the various genres produced in the period, and while some attention is paid to less important works so that they may illuminate the more important, the chief emphasis is upon an increased understanding and appreciation of the masterworks of the period.

In this course the "lesser works" appear in what are called Literary History Options. There were in the period many literary movements, cults, and trends which deserve study but which were too extensive for a student to be able to read in all of them to any depth within the confines of a single course. Accordingly, while all of them will be discussed in class, the student will be required to read only a selected number of them.

Professor M. G. Thysell will be responsible for the first term, and Professor W. K. Thomas for the second. They will share the evaluating of the major essays and will together determine the final grades.

The work required of students is as follows: reading all the required works and a selected number of Literary History Options indicated in the Order of Topics below, reading all critical works appropriate to their essay topics and to an understanding of the period in general, presentation of two brief oral seminar reports (one in each term), submission of two minor essays (each of 2000-3000 words and one in each term) and one major essay (about 4000 words), and writing an examination at the end of each term over the required works of that term. Topics for seminar reports and essays will follow. The major essay will be due March 16, 1977, and may be presented to either instructor according to its focus.
II. Texts

1. *Eighteenth-Century English Literature*, ed. Tillotson (Harcourt, Brace, etc.)


III. Order of Topics

Note: In the following list LHO means Literary History Option.

I. The Restoration

A. Prose and poetry revealing society

1. Pepys, selections from the *Diary*

2. Dryden, *Astraea Redux*, selections from *Annus Mirabilis* (texts supplied)

3. Sprat, selections from *The History of the Royal Society* (LHO)
English 410 Syllabus for 1976-77

4. Halifax, selections from The Lady's New Year's Gift (supplied) (LHO)

B. Comedy

1. Etheridge, The Man of Mode
2. Wycherley, The Country Wife
4. Farquhar, The Beaux' Stratagem (LHO)

C. Poetry

1. Development of the couplet (texts supplied)
2. Satire before Dryden:
   a. Butler, selections from Hudibras (supplied)
   b. Rochester, A Satire Against Mankind
3. Dryden
   a. Early development (texts supplied)
   b. Satire:
      i. MacFlecknoe
      ii. Absalom and Achitophel
      iii. Selections from A Discourse Concerning Satire (supplied)
   c. Ratiocinative poetry: Religio Laici

D. Tragedy

1. Dryden
   a. An Essay of Dramatic Poesy (supplied)
   b. Essay on the Dramatic Poetry of the Last Age (LHO)
2. Heroic tragedy
   a. Dryden, The Conquest of Granada (LHO)
b. Dryden, Aureng-Zeb (LHO)
c. Dryden, All for Love

3. Renaissance tragedy continued: Otway, Venice Preserved (LHO)

II. The Early Eighteenth Century

A. Swift (in Landa text)
   1. A Tale of a Tub
   2. Gulliver's Travels
   3. A Modest Proposal

B. Vers de société: Prior, Swift, Gay (LHO)

C. Defoe
   1. Selections as in Tillotson
   2. Robinson Crusoe

C. Essays
   1. Addison & Steele, selections from The Tatler and The Spectator (in Tillotson)
   2. Shaftesbury, selections (LHO)
   3. Mandeville, selections (LHO)

E. Pastoral and mock-pastoral poetry (LHO)
   1. Pope, selections from A Discourse on Pastoral Poetry and Guardian No. 40 (supplied); Winter
   2. Ambrose Philips, The First Pastoral
   3. Gay, The Shepherd's Week

F. Sentimental comedy: Steele, The Conscious Lovers (LHO)

III. The Rise of the Novel

A. Richardson
   1. Selections from Letters Written to & for Particular Friends (LHO)
IV. The Early Eighteenth Century (Continued)

A. Pope

1. Literary theory: An Essay on Criticism
2. Satire:
   a. The Rape of the Lock
   b. Epistle to Dr. Arbuthnot
   c. Epistle to Augustus
3. Philosophical poetry: An Essay on Man
4. Sentimental poetry:
   a. Elegy: To the Memory of an Unfortunate Lady
   b. Eloisa to Abelard

B. The mock-pastoral dramatized: Gay, The Beggar's Opera

C. Descriptive-meditative poetry (LHO)

1. Pomfret, The Choice
2. Finch, A Nocturnal Reverie
3. Dyer, Grongar Hill
4. Thomson, Winter and A Hymn to the Seasons

V. Mid-Century

A. Drama: Fielding, Tom Thumb the Great

B. Poetry

1. Gray
2. Collins

C. Criticism and essays: Samuel Johnson
   1. Moralist: Review of Soame Jenyns, Rambler Vol 185, Rasselas

D. Biography: Boswell, selections

VI. Age of Sensibility

A. Goldsmith
   1. Poetry: The Deserted Village
   2. Drama: She Stoops to Conquer
   3. Novel: The Vicar of Wakefield (LHO)

B. Young as theorist: Conjectures on Original Composition (LHO)

C. Cowper, selections from his poetry

D. Novels: sensible and horrific (LHO)
   1. Mackenzie, The Man of Feeling
   2. Lewis, The Monk

E. Domestic (bourgeois) tragedy: Lillo, The London Merchant (LHO)

F. Cults of the primitive and mediaeval (LHO)
   1. Macpherson/Ossian, Carthon
   2. Chatterton, selections from his poetry
   3. Percy, texts to be supplied

G. Sterne, Tristram Shandy

H. Theories (LHO)
   1. Burke, selections from A Philosophical Inquiry into ... the Sublime and the Beautiful
   2. Reynolds, selections from Discourses
I. Blended strands

1. Crabbe, selections from his poetry
2. Smollett, Humphry Clinker
3. Sheridan, School for Scandal
4. Burney, Evelina (LHO)

J. Burns, selections from his poetry