ENGLISH 410: The Augustan Age

SYLLABUS for 1977-78

I. Rationale

This course provides a study of representative major works and trends in 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.

Professor R. N. Gosselink will be responsible for the first term, and Professor W. K. Thomas for the second. They will together determine the final grades.

The work required of students is as follows: reading all the literary works assigned, reading all critical works appropriate to their essay topics and to an understanding of the period in general, submission of a journal at frequent intervals, submission of a major essay (about 4000 words) in each term, and writing an examination at the end of each term over the work of that term. The first essay will be due Nov. 8; the second Feb. 18. Topics will follow.

II. Texts

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

2. Greene, The Age of Exuberance (Random House)

3. Six Restoration Plays, ed. Wilson (Riverside B38)


5. Eighteenth-Century Comedy, ed. Taylor (Oxford)

7. Fielding, *Joseph Andrews* (with *Shamela*) (Riverside B53)

8. Lewis, *The Monk* (Grove)


### III. Order of topics in the three-hour classes

#### A. Fall term

20 Sept. Pepys, all selections in *Eighteenth-Century English Literature* (hereafter cited as ECEL)

Wilmot, all selections in ECEL

Selected poetry of the court wits (texts supplied)

*The Age of Exuberance* (to be read by 1 Nov.)

27 Sept. From *Six Restoration Plays*:

- Wycherley, *The Country Wife*
- Etheredge, *The Man of Mode*
- Congreve, *The Way of the World*
- Farquhar, *The Beaux' Stratagem*

4 Oct. Dryden: *MacFlecknoe*, *Absalom and Achitophel*, selections from *A Discourse Concerning Satire* (text supplied)


18 Oct. From *Six Restoration Plays*:

- Dryden, *All for Love*, *Aureng-Zebe* (text supplied)
- Otway, *Venice Preserved*

25 Oct. From The Writings of Jonathan Swift:

- *A Tale of a Tub*, *Modest Proposal*

1 Nov. Swift, *Gulliver's Travels*, "On the Trinity," "Correspondence" (pp. 583-91)
8 Nov. Vers de societe:

Prior: "An ode," "To a child of quality," "To a lady,"
"An ode," "Cupid mistaken," "A better answer,"
"Another," "An Epitaph"

Ambrose Philips: "Anacreon," "To Miss Margaret Pultz-
eney"

Pomfret: "The Choice"

John Philips: "The Splendid Shilling"

Swift: "Phillis," "Progress of Beauty," "Stella's
Birthday" (1719, 1721, 1727), "Lady's Dressing
Room," "Strephon and Chloe," "Cassinus and
Peter," Verses on the Death of Dr. Swift," "On
Poetry," "Apollo's Edict" (text supplied),
"Verses Wrote in a Lady's ivory Table-Book"

15 Nov. Pope and the pastoral:

Ambrose Philips, First Pastoral

Swift, "Description of the Morning," "Description of
a City Shower"

Pope, The Pastoral (text supplied), Guardian No. 40
(text supplied), Windsor Forest

22 Nov. Pope, Essay on Criticism, Rape of the Lock, Epistle to
Arbuthnot, Epistle to Augustus

29 Nov. Mandeville, all selections in ECEL
Shaftesbury, all selections in ECEL
Steele and Addison, all selections in ECEL

6 Dec. Defoe, The Shortest Way with Dissenters, Moll Flanders,
The Manufacturer (text supplied)

B. Winter term

3 Jan. Pope, An Essay on Man

10 Jan. Pope, Eloisa to Abelard
Steele, The Conscious Lovers
Descriptive-meditative poetry (part 1):
Finch, A Nocturnal Reverie
Dyer, Gronoar Hill

Gay, The Beggar's Opera
Fielding, Tom Thumb
24 Jan. Fielding, Joseph Andrews

31 Jan. Gray, all selections in ECEL
        Collins, all selections in ECEL

7 Feb. Johnson: Rambler No. 185 (text supplied), Rasselas,
        Preface to Shakespeare, Lives of Pope and Cowley
        Boswell, selection from Life of Johnson (text supplied)

        Cowper, all selections in ECEL
        Drama: Lillo, The London Merchant

21 Feb. Cult of originality: Young, Conjectures on Original Composition

       Cult of the primitive and mediæval:
            Macpherson/Ossian, Carthon (text supplied)
            Chatterton, all selections in ECEL
            Percy, Chevy Chase (text supplied)

18 Feb. Cult of terror: Lewis, The Monk
        Goldsmith, She Stoops to Conquer

7 Mar. Sterne, Tristram Shandy

14 Mar. Sterne, Tristram Shandy (continued)
        Crabbe, selections from ECEL

21 Mar. Sheridan, School for Scandal
        Smollett, Humphry Clinker

28 Mar. Burns, all selections in ECEL