Syllabus

A: Texts

Tillotson, Eighteenth-Century English Literature (Harcourt, Brace)
McMillin, Restoration and Eighteenth-Century Comedy (Norton Critical)
Lillo, The London Merchant (Nebraska)
Richardson, Pamela (Norton)
Fielding, Joseph Andrews (with Shamela) (Riverside)
Goldsmith, She Stoops to Conquer (Barron)
Smollett, Humphry Clinker (Sguet)

B: Rationale

English 410B, the second term of English 410, is a study of the second half (1720-1798) of the long and rich period of English literary history known as "the Augustan Age." The course aims to provide not only an acquaintance with specific important writers and works but also an understanding of the attitudes, ideas, and trends which shaped English society, its writers, and its literature. The course deals, in the words of the calendar description, with "the probing of ores and manners by Pope and Johnson; the emergence of the novel with Richardson and Fielding; and the transformation from classicism to romanticism." Pope's early writings are dealt with in the companion course, English 410A. The writings of William Blake, also a major writer of the eighteenth century, are dealt with in English 430.

C: Requirements of the Course

All students are required to read all the assigned literary works; to participate, and be prepared to participate, in class discussions; to read whatever literary and critical works may be appropriate to their essay topics and to an understanding of the period in general; to submit a short essay (about 1200 words) by February 9 and a major essay (about 4000 words) by March 23; to write a three-hour final examination during the April examination period.

D: Order of Topics

I: Pope (Later Works) (Jan. 5-23)

II: Eighteenth-Century Drama (Early) (Jan. 26-Feb. 4)
    a) Backgrounds: On Wit, Humour, and Laughter (pp. 367-390); Steele and Dennis (pp. 420-438); Stages, Actors, and Audiences (pp. 464-475)
    b) Steele: The Conscious Lovers
c) Gay: The Beggar's Opera  
d) Lillo: The London Merchant

III: Topics in Pre-romanticism and Sensibility (Feb. 6)  
a) Thomson: Winter

IV: The Rise of the Novel (Feb. 9-13; Feb. 23-25)  
a) Richardson: Pamela  
b) Fielding: Joseph Andrews

V: Topics in Pre-romanticism and Sensibility (Feb. 27-Mar. 2)  
b) Young: Conjectures on Original Composition  
c) Collins: Ode to Fear, Ode on the Poetical Character  
d) Gray: Selections as in Tillotson  
e) Goldsmith: The Deserted Village

VI: Johnson: (Mar. 4-13)  
The Vanity of Human Wishes, Rambler and Idler (selections to be specified), Preface to Shakespeare, Lives of Poets

VII: Eighteenth-Century Comedy (Late) (Mar. 16-18)  
a) Goldsmith: She Stoops to Conquer  
b) Sheridan: The School for Scandal

VIII: The Later Novel (Mar. 20-25)  
a) Mackenzie: The Man of Feeling  
b) Smollett: Humphry Clinker

IX: End of Century: Burns (Mar. 27-30)  
The Cotter's Saturday Night, To a Mouse, To a Louse, Address to the Unco Guid, Tam o' Shanter, The Jolly Beggars, Holy Willie's Prayer

E: Evaluation

The short essay (1000-1500 words) will be assigned on January 26 and will be due on February 9; it will require no outside research. The major essay (3500-4000 words) will be assigned on January 19 and will be due on March 23; it will be a research paper. The final examination will be a combination of short answer (identification) questions and essay questions. Computation of the final grade will be as follows: short essay, 20%; major essay, 45%; examination, 35%.