ENGL 410A * Restoration and Eighteenth-Century Literature  
Fall 1992  
M. A. Gerhardstein

COURSE SYLLABUS

I. Course Texts

- Assigned texts available for purchase at Bookstore --
  
  Greene, The Age of Exuberance (Random House)  
  Tillotson et al., Eighteenth-Century English Literature (Harbrace)  
  Wilson, Six Restoration Plays (Riverside)  
  Behn, The Rover (Nebraska)  
  Swift, Writings of Jonathan Swift (Norton Critical)  
  Defoe, Moll Flanders (Norton Critical)

- Assigned texts available for purchase at Kinko's --
  
  Items included in package: (1) Dryden, Astraea Redux; (2) Pepys, Diary entry for 11 February 1660; (3) Dryden, selection from Annsus Mirabilis; (4) Winchilsea, selected poems; (5) Addison, Spectator, #10, #69, #105, #108, #112, #119

- Optional texts on Library Reserve --
  
  Fraser, The Weaker Vessel: Women's Lot in Seventeenth-Century England; others TBA

- Commentary on course texts: For both ENGL 410A and ENGL 410B, the Tillotson anthology is the core text. The Greene text provides valuable background for both 410A and 410B. The Kinko's ENGL 410A package includes several assigned works not provided in the core text or in any other of the assigned texts. Assigned readings from the various Bookstore texts and from the Kinko's package are required for the course. Optional readings from the Reserve texts will be mentioned throughout the term.
II. Course Description and Aims

ENGL 410A is the first course in a two-term sequence which treats the long period of English literary history, sometimes called "The Augustan Age," which runs from about 1660 to about 1800. As the initial segment in this 140-year period, ENGL 410A covers about the first 70 years of the period.

The span 1660-1730 is a wonderfully interesting and intriguing period of English literary history. The literature itself is charged with vigorous energy, and it is vitally and vividly engaged with the ideas and issues of the time—social, cultural, political, religious. It is a very attractive literature, in other words, for a variety of reasons; but there is also a great deal of that attractive literature. There is a great deal of it, obviously, because the period is so long, and because during that long period, there were a great many important writers, most of whom tended to be quite prolific, and because many types and varieties of literature were written and read. The abundant and fine literature of the period is one of its joys; it also means that the courses which treat this literature are correspondingly heavy courses, and the student who enters ENGL 410A should be aware, at the outset, of the demands that it is likely to levy.

The aim of ENGL 410A is to provide both an acquaintance with important writers and works of the time as well as an understanding of the attitudes, ideas, and trends which shaped English society, its writers, and its literature during the Restoration and early eighteenth century. This is the Age of Dryden, Swift, and Pope, and the course concentrates especially on the magnificent satire produced by these three giants of the period. In addition, ENGL 410A treats the fine but controversial drama of the Restoration, as well as developments in women's writing, in the periodical essay, and in fiction. Finally, as did the period itself, the course emphasizes the nature of genre and form in the literary works of the time.

III. Course Requirements

In both reading and writing requirements, ENGL 410A is a heavy course. It is also a fast-paced course. Students undertaking the course should be prepared to meet its demands. In planning their working schedules, students should especially keep in mind the three long prose works which will appear in the second half of the term: A Tale of a Tub, Gulliver's Travels, and Moll Flanders.

Students are expected to keep up with the assigned readings, to read in advance, and to be prepared to participate in class discussions.

Written requirements of the course will include three short essays (6-8 pages each) and a final examination. In the calculation of the course grade, each essay will be worth 22%; the final examination, 34%. Essays will be assigned four weeks in advance of the due date. On the last class day of the term, a preparation handout on the nature of the final examination will be distributed.
Assignment schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 15</td>
<td>Essay #1 assigned</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 8</td>
<td>Essay #2 assigned</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 13</td>
<td>Essay #1 due</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 3</td>
<td>Essay #3 assigned</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 5</td>
<td>Essay #2 due</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 1</td>
<td>Essay #3 due</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 3</td>
<td>Exam handout distributed</td>
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<tr>
<td>December ?</td>
<td>Final examination</td>
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IV. Course Schedule

1. Preliminaries and Prologue: Restoration Facts and Attitudes

   September 15, 17, 22

   Reading Assignment: Tillotson, General Introduction, pp. 1-13; Greene, ch. 2
   (ch. 1 very strongly recommended in addition); Tillotson, headnotes to
   Pepys and Dryden; Dryden, Astraea Redux (Kinko's materials); Pepys,
   selections as in Tillotson and in Kinko's materials; Dryden, selection
   from Annus Mirabilis (Kinko's materials)

2. The Temper of the Times: Restoration Comedy

   September 24, 29, October 1, 6

   Reading Assignment: Etherege, The Man of Mode (in Wilson); Wycherley, The
   Country Wife (in Wilson); Behn, The Rover; Congreve, The Way of the
   World (in Wilson)

3. Dryden

   October 8, 13, 15, 20, 22

   Reading Assignment: Tillotson, headnote to Dryden; Dryden, To the Memory
   of Mr. Oldham, Mac Flecknoe, Absalom and Achitophel, To...Mrs.
   Killigrew, A Song for St. Cecilia's Day, Alexander's Feast (all in
   Tillotson)

4. Swift

   October 27, 29, November 3, 5, 10

   Reading Assignment: Tillotson, headnote to Swift; "A Description of the
   Morning" and "A Description of a City Shower" (both in Tillotson); A
   Tale of a Tub (in Norton); Gulliver's Travels (in Norton)
5. New Currents

*November 12, 17, 19, 24*

Reading Assignment: Tillotson, headnotes to Addison and Steele and to Defoe; Winchilsea, poetry as included in Kinko’s materials and in Tillotson; Farquhar, The Beaux’ Stratagem (in Wilson); Defoe, Moll Flanders; Addison, Spectator #10, 69, 106, 108, 112, 119 (in Kinko’s materials), and #42, 58, 61, 62, 291, 409, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421 (in Tillotson)

6. Pope: Early Works

November 26, December 1, 3

Reading Assignment: Tillotson, headnote to Pope; Pope, Essay on Criticism, The Rape of the Lock, Windsor Forest (all in Tillotson)

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