ENGLISH 410A

SATIRE AND SENSE:
THE RESTORATION & EARLY EIGHTEENTH CENTURY

Course Syllabus

AIMS & OBJECTIVES

Mainly, I want you to enjoy reading and/or rereading the great classic satires of the Restoration, an age much like our recent past in temperament and outlook. In addition we will view some of the finest comedy since Shakespeare and lyric poetry, including works by women outside the traditional canon.

You should also take from this course a better understanding of the central problems of the age which we face today in renewed disguises: the relationship between faith (religion) and knowledge (science), the nature, balance and proper exercise of power (politics), public morality (artistic freedom vs censorship), and the place of women in society and literature (feminism).

You will get a feel for the exciting political, economic and cultural events and trends of an age that includes the restoration of English monarchy, the institution of constitutional monarchy by peaceful revolution, the union of England and Scotland, the Great Fire and Plague of London, the founding of the Royal Society, and such giants as the Sun King, the Duke of Marlborough, Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, Sir Peter Lely, Godfrey Kneller, Grinling Gibbons, Sir Christopher Wren, John Vanbrugh, Henry Purcell, Georg Friedrich Handel, John Dryden, Jonathan Swift, and Alexander Pope.

Samuel Delany opened a famous essay: "As opposed to style, there is no such thing as content." We will look at dying, rising and renewing of literary forms and how they affect the message of the writers: the eclipse of the lyric, epic, and high tragedy, the rise of topographical poetry, the mock epic, the comedy of manners and the tragicomedy, and the honing of satire into a deadly instrument.

The course traditionally excludes John Milton, John Bunyan and other writers who reached the peak of their achievements during the Restoration but had their gaze fixed on an earlier age and other problems. You will find them in English 350.
THE TEXTS

To achieve our aims and objectives, I have chosen the following texts:

Aphra Behn,
*The Rover* (Lincoln: Nebraska, 1967).

Robert N. Gosselink, comp.
*A Restoration Miscellany* (Kinko's, 1995).

Robert A. Greenberg and William B. Piper, eds.,

Donald Greene,

John Harold Wilson, ed.

THE READINGS

Read all the assigned words before we take them up in class. You cannot hope to benefit fully from the lectures (which, unlike book reviews, assume a reading of the book) or discussions unless you have the expected listening and participating readiness. Naturally, I will not take up each work read, but if you have questions concerning those, feel free to ask them in class or come see me privately.

As you read, take notes, make marginalia, ask yourself questions, answer them as you read on; don't just sit there running your eyes across the page; get actively involved with the reading experience. "Escape" reading or reading strictly for pleasure is great fun, but we don't learn as much as when we pay more active attention. Use study notes or questions when available. When you finish a work or a section, sum up. Write a brief response, critique; ask questions about elements that puzzled you. Keep a reading journal. Bring it to class and draw on it. **READ ALL POETRY ALOUD! preferably to someone else.**

Think about what you have read and be prepared at any time to comment usefully or to ask perceptive questions (or both) about your reading. Have opinions; express them; defend them with citation and interpretation from the works, your critical reading, and your experience of life.

All introductions to all books, authors, works.
The Age of Exuberance: all sections to 1720.
Katherine Philips
Lucy Hutchinson
John Wilmot, the Earl of Rochester
Elizabeth Wilmot, Countess of Rochester
Anne Wharton
Ephelia
Aphra Behn: poetry
George Etherege: The Man of Mode
William Wycherley The Country Wife (don't read it; see it)
Aphra Behn: The Rover
Anne Killigrew
John Dryden
Thomas Otway, Venice Preserv'd
George Farquhar, The Beaux' Stratagem in R
Mary Astell
Sarah Fyge Field Egerton
Matthew Prior
Daniel Defoe
Alexander Pope
Anne Finch
Delarivière Manley
Jonathan Swift:
   A Tale of a Tub IX
   The Bickerstaff Papers
   Selected poetry
   Gulliver's Travels
   Letters to Pope
   A Modest Proposal
   Lady Mary Wortley Montagu