I. Rationale

The calendar description of the course reads as follows: "The probing of mores and manners by Pope and Johnson, the emergence of the novel with Fielding and Sterne, and the transformation (in 'the age of sensibility') of literary attitudes and practice from classicism to romanticism." To this description should be added a few observations.

The course attempts to achieve a balance between masterpieces of literature and indicators of how ideas and attitudes changed, along with fashions in genre and form, as the century progressed.

The course is at once an independent entity and a complementary partner to English 410A, Satire and Sense. Because of its latter status, it shares with the other course the main anthology, edited by Tillotson, and divides the poetry of Pope between the other course and itself. (The writings of Blake are left to English 430, The Romantic Movement.)

The work required of students is as follows: reading all the literary works assigned, reading all the literary and critical works appropriate to their essay topics and an understanding of the period in general, submission of a major essay (about 4000 words) by March 10, and submission of a take-home examination (about 3000 words) by April 14.

II. Texts

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

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

3. Fielding, Joseph Andrews (with Shamela) (Riverside B 53)

4. Lewis, The Monk (Grove)
5. Lillo, The London Merchant, ed. McBurney (Bison)
7. Sheridan, School for Scandal, ed. Loftis (AHM Pub.)
8. Smollett, Humphry Clinker, ed. Davis (Rinehart 48)

III. Order of Topics

1. Pope, An Essay on Man and Eloisa to Abelard (in Eighteenth-Century English Literature, hereafter cited as ECEL)


3. Descriptive-meditative poetry: Thomson, Winter (in ECEL)


5. The rise in importance of the imagination, exemplified in Collins' "Ode on the Poetical Character" (in ECEL)

6. Fielding, Joseph Andrews

7. Gray, selections in ECEL, plus "The Bard" (to be supplied)

8. Goldsmith, "The Deserted Village" (in ECEL)

9. Johnson, Rambler No. 185 (to be supplied) and The Vanity of Human Wishes, Rasselas, Preface to Shakespeare, Lives of Pope and Cowley (all in ECEL)

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

11. Cult of originality: Young, Conjectures on Original Composition (in ECEL)

12. Cult of the primitive and mediaeval: Macpherson/Ossian, Carthon, and Percy, Chevy Chase (both to be supplied)

13. Cult of Gothic terror: Lewis, The Monk

14. Goldsmith, "An Essay on the Theatre" (in ECEL) and She Stoops to Conquer (in Taylor)

16. Crabbe, The Village, Bk. I; The Borough, Letters XIX and XXII
   (in ECEL)

17. Sheridan, School for Scandal

18. Smollett, Humphry Clinker

19. Burns, selections in ECEL

IV. Essay

The essay is designed to overcome some of the limitations necessarily put on the course. It asks you to read further in the classic works of the period and to apply what you learn about them to what you have learned about some of the required texts. These are the topics:

1. Tom Jones in the light of Joseph Andrews

2. Tristram Shandy in the light of A Sentimental Journey

3. The epistolary novel as seen in Pamela, Shamela, and Humphry Clinker

4. The Vicar of Wakefield in the light of "The Deserted Village"

5. Milestones in Gothic terror: The Castle of Otranto, The Mysteries of Udolpho, and Northanger Abbey

6. Austen's Sense and Sensibility as a commentary on what is found in Mackenzie and Sterne

7. Fielding as a dramatist, on the stage and in the novel

8. Eschatology poetry: Parnell, Blair, and Young

9. Cowper and Collins as poets of the mid-century

10. The cult of the mediaeval in poetry: Chatterton, Gray, Macpherson, and Percy

11. A topic similar to the preceding and approved by your instructor

Choose one of the topics and write an essay of 3500-4500 words on it. Feel free to consult with your instructor about it at any time, and please do so at least before you begin the actual writing. The essay should be completely to the point, cogently argued, and clearly expressed. Superior perception and graceful phrasing would enhance it further. It is due March 10.
V. Examination

The examination will be based on the texts assigned in section III. It will be of the take-home variety, and answers to it should total between 2500 and 3500 words. Due April 14, it will be weighted as heavily as the essay.