Syllabus

A: Texts

Tillotson, Eighteenth-Century English Literature (Harcourt, Brace)
Steele, The Conscious Lovers (Nebraska)
Lillo, The London Merchant (Nebraska)
Richardson, Pamela (Norton)
Fielding, Joseph Andrews [with Shamela] (Riverside)
Bettenbender, Three English Comedies (Dell)
Smollett, Humphry Clinker (Signet)

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 mores 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 12 and a major essay (about 4000 words) by March 22; and to write a three-hour final examination during the April examination period.
D: Order of Topics

I: Pope [Later Works] (Jan. 4–22)
   Essay on Man, Of Women, Of Riches, Epistle to Arbuthnot,
   The Dunciad--Book the First, The New Dunciad

II: Early Eighteenth-Century Drama (Jan. 25–Feb. 3)
   a) Steele: The Conscious Lovers
   b) Gay: The Beggar's Opera
   c) Lillo: The London Merchant

III: Topics in Pre-romanticism and Sensibility (Feb. 5)
   a) Thomson: Winter

IV: The Rise of the Novel (Feb. 8–12; Feb. 22–24)
   a) Richardson: Pamela
   b) Fielding: Joseph Andrews

V: Topics in Pre-romanticism and Sensibility (Feb. 26–Mar. 1)
   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. 3–12)
   The Vanity of Human Wishes, Rambler 32, 60, 146, 158, 168,
   Idler 61, 62, Preface to Shakespeare, Lives of Poets

VII: Later Eighteenth-Century Comedy (Mar. 15–17)
   a) Goldsmith: She Stoops to Conquer
   b) Sheridan: The School for Scandal

VIII: The Later Novel (Mar. 19–24)
   a) Mackenzie: The Man of Feeling
   b) Smollett: Humphry Clinker

IX: End of Century: Burns (Mar. 26–29)
   The Cotter's Saturday Night, To a Mouse, To a Louse, Address to the
   Unco Cuid, Tam o' Shanter, Holy Willie's Prayer

E: Evaluation

The short essay (1000–1500 words), demanding no outside research, will
be assigned on January 25 and will be due on February 12. The major essay
(3500–4000 words), a research paper, will be assigned on January 18 and will
be due on March 22. 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%; examina-
tion, 35%.