ENGL 841 Topics in Restoration and Eighteenth-Century Literature: 18th-Century Narrative Satire and the Novel

Instructor: Christopher Fanning

Description: This course traces the development of the novel by attending to a tradition of prose fiction that emphasizes not the details of everyday life, or the convincing portrayal of the inner workings of the mind—i.e., the traits associated with the “realistic” novel—but rather narratives that exist to expose and test ideas and types (whether philosophical, scientific, or social-cultural). What is the relationship between this narrative mode and what we have come to call the novel? How do the different modes of satire, comedy and irony reflect cultural and generic attitudes toward the self and society?

Assessment: Participation, a presentation, a final essay.

Advice: Some of these texts are long (especially those for weeks 7-11). Reading ahead over the summer is highly recommended (and highly entertaining).

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE (editions listed below)


Week 2: Swift, A Tale of a Tub (1704/10)

Week 3-4: Swift, Gulliver’s Travels (1726)

Week 4: Fielding, Joseph Andrews (1742)

Week 5: Joseph Andrews, contd; Jonathan Wild (1743)

Week 6: Collier, An Essay on the Art of Ingeniously Tormenting (1753)

Week 7: Lennox, The Female Quixote (1753)

Week 8-9: Sterne, Tristram Shandy (1759-67)

Week 10-11: Opie, Adeline Mowbray (1805)

Week 12: Austen, Pride and Prejudice (1813)

PLEASE USE THE FOLLOWING EDITIONS: Norton Critical Editions of Swift (collected in Essential Writings) and Sterne (these have been ordered bundled for a discount); Broadview editions of Collier and Opie; all others in Oxford World’s Classics.

Textbooks available at the Campus Bookstore: https://www.campusbookstore.com/textbooks/search-engine/results?Course=ENGL21058