



Graduate Course Syllabus

LIT 508: Graduate Studies in 18th Century British Literature

Center: Online

Course Prerequisites

None

Course Description

This course surveys the literature of the 'long 18th century,' from the Restoration to the beginning of Romanticism, and studies developments in English literature such as the novel, the essay, satire, journalism, and popular theatre. Authors studied may include Congreve, Defoe, Swift, Pope, Johnson, Fielding, Smollett, and Austen. This course may also cover developments in the visual arts. Themes of the course will vary, but may include civil liberty, sexuality and gender, colonialism, city and country, and the enlightenment movement.

Course Outcomes

- Recognize the complex relationship between eighteenth-century British literature and its historical, social, and cultural context
- Construct critical positions on eighteenth-century British texts based on close reading of primary and secondary sources, and contextual analysis
- Understand and explain basic literary techniques, genres, and major ideas of eighteenth-century British literature
- Compose an essay that focuses on a close reading of one or more literary texts, applying both formal literary techniques and historical and social context, incorporating secondary sources
- Develop an aesthetic appreciation for literature and the critical role it plays in culture and society

Required Materials

Using your learning resources is critical to your success in this course. Please purchase directly through the [SNHU Online Bookstore](#) rather than any other vendor. Purchasing directly from the bookstore ensures that you will obtain the correct materials and that the IT Service Desk, your advisor, and the instructor can provide you with support if you have problems.

The Expedition of Humphry Clinker

Tobias Smollett

Oxford University Press

1984

ISBN: 978-0-19-953898-0

Gulliver's Travels
Jonathan Swift
W.W Norton & Co.
2002
ISBN: 978-0-393-95724-2

History of Rasselas, Prince of Abissinia
Samuel Johnson
Oxford University Press
2009
ISBN: 978-0-19-922997-0

Moll Flanders
Daniel Defoe
W.W Norton & Co.
2004
ISBN: 978-0-393-97862-9

Restoration and Eighteenth-Century Comedy
Scott McMillan
W.W Norton & Co.
2nd Edition
1997
ISBN: 978-0-393-96334-2

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

As indicated in our core values, SNHU is committed to “embrace diversity where we encourage and respect diverse identities, ideas, and perspectives by honoring difference, amplifying belonging, engaging civilly, and breaking down barriers to bring our mission to life.”

This may or will be reflected in SNHU’s curriculum as we embrace and practice diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) to provide the most transformative experience for our students, faculty, and staff. Because topics pertaining to DEI can be sensitive, please remember that embodying and practicing diversity, equity, and inclusion is one of our core values that you will encounter throughout the academic experience. In higher education, we are expected to think and engage critically. Use a growth mindset to embrace the diverse readings, course assignments, and experiences of your peers and faculty.

For more information about DEI at SNHU, please visit our website at the [Office of Diversity and Inclusion](#).

Instructor Availability and Response Time

Your class interaction with the instructor and your classmates will take place on a regular, ongoing basis. Your instructor will be actively engaged within the course throughout the week. You will normally communicate with your instructor in the weekly discussions or the General Questions discussion topic so that your questions and the instructor’s answers benefit the entire class. You should feel free, however, to communicate with your instructor

via SNHU email at any time, particularly when you want to discuss something of a personal or sensitive nature. Your instructor will generally provide a response within 24 hours. Instructors will post grades and feedback (as applicable) within seven days of an assignment's due date, or within seven days of a late submission.

Grade Distribution

Assignment Category	Number of Graded Items	Point Value per Item	Total Points
Discussions	11	20	220
Journals	6	30	180
Short Papers	2	50	100
Final Project: Milestone One	1	30	30
Final Project: Milestone Two	1	60	60
Final Project: Milestone Three	1	90	90
Final Project: Milestone Four	1	110	110
Final Project: Milestone Five	1	210	210
			Total Course Points: 1,000

This course may also contain practice activities. The purpose of these non-graded activities is to assist you in mastering the learning outcomes in the graded activity items listed above.

University Grading System: Graduate

Grade	Numerical Equivalent	Points
A	93–100	4.00
A-	90–92	3.67
B+	87–89	3.33
B	83–86	3.00
B-	80–82	2.67
C+	77–79	2.33
C	73–76	2.00
F	0–72	0.00
I	Incomplete	
IF	Incomplete/Failure *	
W	Withdrawn	

* Please refer to the [policy page](#) for information on the incomplete grade process.

Grading Guides

Specific activity directions, grading guides, posting requirements, and additional deadlines can be found in the Assignment Guidelines and Rubrics section of the course.

Weekly Assignment Schedule

All reading and assignment information can be found within each module of the course. Assignments and discussion posts during the first week of each term are due by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time. Assignments and discussion posts for the remainder of the term are due by 11:59 p.m. of the student's local time zone.

In addition to the textbook readings that are listed, there may be additional required resources within each module.

Module	Topics and Assignments
1	The Long Eighteenth-Century: History and Transition on the Page 1-1 Discussion: Context and Allegory in <i>Absalom and Achitophel</i> 1-2 Journal: Approaches to Eighteenth-Century Texts 1-3 Review Final Project
2	Restoration Comedy and the English Stage Reading: <i>Restoration and Eighteenth-Century Comedy, The Country Wife</i> Reading: <i>Restoration and Eighteenth-Century Comedy, The Way of the World</i> Reading: <i>Restoration and Eighteenth-Century Comedy, "The Theatrical World, 1660–1700"</i> Reading: <i>Restoration and Eighteenth-Century Comedy</i> , choose one: Elizabeth Howe, "The Arrival of the Actress"; Emmet L. Avery and Arthur H. Scouten, "The Audience"; or Charles Beecher Hogan, "Scenery and Lighting" 2-1 Discussion: The World of Restoration Theater 2-2 Short Paper: Comparing Restoration Comedies
3	Gender Politics in Early Amatory Fiction 3-1 Discussion: Critiquing Gender Roles in Early Amatory Fiction 3-2 Final Project Milestone One: Elevator Pitch 3-3 Journal: Reading Slant
4	Rogue Women and the Fictional Crime Biography Reading: <i>Moll Flanders</i> , entire text Reading: <i>Moll Flanders</i> , John Rietz's "Criminal Ms-Representation: Moll Flanders and the Criminal Biography" 4-1 Discussion: Femininity vs. Criminality in the Eighteenth Century 4-2 Journal: The Life of Moll Flanders 4-3 Final Project Milestone Two: Paper Abstract
5	Travel and Satire Reading: <i>Gulliver's Travels</i> , entire text Reading: <i>Gulliver's Travels</i> , Douglas Lane Patey's "Swift's Satire on 'Science' and the Structure of Gulliver's Travels" 5-1 Discussion: The Challenges of <i>Gulliver's Travels</i> Part 3 5-2 Short Paper: Travel and Satire in <i>Gulliver's Travels</i>
6	Poetic Satire and the Literary Marketplace 6-1 Discussion: The Bitter Side of Satire in <i>The Dunciad</i> 6-2 Journal: Satire or Bullying? 6-3 Final Project Milestone Three: Annotated Bibliography

Module	Topics and Assignments
7	<p>Orientalism in the Eighteenth Century</p> <p>Reading: <i>History of Rasselas, Prince of Abyssinia</i>, entire text</p> <p>7-1 Discussion: Orientalism in Johnson's <i>Rasselas</i></p> <p>7-2 Journal: The Nature of Happiness</p>
8	<p>The Epistolary Character</p> <p>Reading: <i>The Expedition of Humphry Clinker</i>, entire text</p> <p>8-1 Discussion: A Multiplicity of Voices</p> <p>8-2 Final Project Milestone Four: Conference Paper Draft</p>
9	<p>The Legacy of Eighteenth-Century Theater</p> <p>Reading: <i>Restoration and Eighteenth-Century Comedy</i>, Richard Brinsley Sheridan's <i>The School for Scandal</i></p> <p>9-1 Discussion: Restoration vs. Late-Eighteenth-Century Comedy</p> <p>9-2 Journal: The Enduring School for Scandal</p>
10	<p>Travel Writing and Empire</p> <p>10-1 Discussion: Eighteenth-Century Travel Writing</p> <p>10-2 Discussion: Course Reflection</p> <p>10-3 Final Project Milestone Five: Final Paper</p>

Attendance Policy

Online students are required to submit a graded assignment/discussion during the first week of class. If a student does not submit a graded assignment/discussion during the first week of class, the student is automatically dropped from the course for non-participation. Review the [full attendance policy](#).

Late Assignments Policy

Meeting assigned due dates is critical for demonstrating progress and ensuring appropriate time for instructor feedback on assignments. Students are expected to submit their assignments on or before the due date. Review the [full late assignment policy](#).

SNHU Student Handbook

Review the [student handbook](#).

ADA/504 Compliance Statement

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is dedicated to providing equal access to individuals with disabilities in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and with Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, as amended by the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008.

SNHU prohibits unlawful discrimination on the basis of disability and takes action to prevent such discrimination by providing reasonable accommodations to eligible individuals with disabilities. The university has adopted this policy to provide for prompt and equitable resolution of complaints regarding any action prohibited by Section 504, the ADA, or the ADAAA.

For questions about **support services, documentation guidelines, general disability issues, or pregnancy accommodations**, please visit the [Online Accessibility Center](#) (OAC).

As a student, you must complete an interactive intake process, with supporting documentation, in order to be granted accommodations. Once reasonable accommodations are approved by the OAC, you will receive an accommodations letter. You are then responsible for sharing the letter with your instructor. Accommodations are not retroactive.

If you feel you've been subject to discrimination on the basis of disability, by any party, you may file a complaint or grievance. For more information on the ADA/504 Grievance Policy, go to the [Disability and Accessibility Services](#) website.

Academic Integrity Policy

Southern New Hampshire University requires all students to adhere to high standards of integrity in their academic work. Activities such as plagiarism and cheating are not condoned by the university. Review the [full academic integrity policy](#).

Copyright Policy

Southern New Hampshire University abides by the provisions of United States Copyright Act (Title 17 of the United States Code). Any person who infringes the copyright law is liable. Review the [full copyright policy](#).

SNHU Withdrawal Policy

Review the [full withdrawal policy](#).

Southern New Hampshire University Policies

More information about SNHU policies can be found on the [policy page](#).