

Print, Literature, and Social Change in Eighteenth-Century England

Prof. George H. Williams
118 Cockefair Hall
816-235-2559
WilliamsGH@umkc.edu

R 7:00-9:45
Haag Hall 212
Office Hours: TR 3:30-4:30 and by appt.
IM (AOL & MSN): ghwumkc

COURSE DESCRIPTION

As new media continue to effect profound changes upon contemporary culture(s), we are drawn towards investigating similar developments in history. This course will explore one such historical development: mass-produced print's impact upon English literature and culture from the late seventeenth century into the eighteenth, a period of loosening restrictions upon, and massive escalation of, print production. We will consider several questions. What are the implications of different forms of verbal communication and representation, such as speech, manuscript, or print? How did authorship, readership, and publishing change during this period? What effect did these changes have on the production, distribution, and reception of such traditionally literary materials as essays, novels, and poetry as well as of other materials such as newspapers, magazines, and dictionaries? How did these changes affect, or engender, the fields of journalism, politics, and literary studies? We will address these issues through a reading of several different seventeenth- and eighteenth-century texts as well as of key contemporary scholarly works.

ASSIGNMENTS

- 15% Reading Responses (Due every other week)
- 35% Annotated Bibliography & Overview (Due March 6)
- 10% Paper Proposal – 250 words (Due April 17)
- 40% Final Paper – 10-12 pages (Due during finals week. Date TBA)

REQUIRED TEXTS

- Aphra Behn, *Oroonoko*
Norton ISBN 0393970140
 - William Blake, *Songs of Innocence and Experience*
Dover ISBN: 0486252647
 - The Commerce of Everyday Life: Selections from The Tatler and The Spectator*
Bedford/St. Martin's ISBN 0312115870
 - Eliza Haywood, *Love in Excess*
Broadview ISBN: 1551113678
 - William Hogarth, *Engravings of Hogarth*
Dover ISBN: 0486224791
 - Samuel Johnson, *The Major Works*
Oxford UP, ISBN 0192840428
 - Samuel Richardson, *Pamela*
Penguin ISBN 0140431403
- Various photocopied readings

ASSIGNMENTS DESCRIPTIONS

Reading Responses

These are your informal responses to the reading for the week. You can focus either on the primary or the secondary reading. You will write 1-2 pages that ask questions of, disagree with, or provide analysis of a scholar's argument, a section of a poem, a passage from a novel, etc. Your responses should be in tune with the aim of the course (refer to the course description above). Bring your paper to class, present it informally, and turn it in at the end of class.

Annotated Bibliography & Overview

You will meet with me to discuss possible research topics, and then you will create a bibliography of up to 15 items related to that topic. You will write a summary and analysis of each item (one page or less). You will also write a roughly 3-page overview of your research findings. More detailed information concerning this assignment will follow.

Abstract & Paper

Consider this an exercise in one of the most common scholarly activities: proposing, writing, and delivering orally an academic paper. Your paper will grow out of the research you did for your bibliography. Your abstract, which describes your paper, should be 250 words maximum. Your paper should be something that could be delivered orally in about 20 minutes (although I am willing to go over this length limit if you feel it necessary). More detailed information concerning this assignment will follow.

CALENDAR

A calendar of topics and readings appears on the following page. These are subject to (slight) change depending on the input of the professor and the students.

1	Jan 15	Introduction
2	Jan 23	Walter Ong, "Writing Restructures Consciousness" D. F. McKenzie, "Speech-Manuscript-Print" Harold Love, from <i>The Culture and Commerce of Texts: Scribal Publication in Seventeenth-Century England</i> Suggested: Robert Darnton, "What is the History of Books?"
3	Jan 30	Elizabeth Eisenstein, from <i>The Printing Press as an Agent of Change</i>
4	Feb 6	Adrian Johns, from <i>The Nature of the Book</i>
5	Feb 13	Ancients versus Moderns Jonathan Swift, "Battel of the Books" and <i>A Tale of a Tub</i> Ann Cline, "Republic of Letters versus Republica Grubstreetaria, 1690-1711"
6	Feb 20	Alexander Pope, <i>Dunciad</i> Mary Leapor, Selected Readings Harold Weber, "The 'Garbage Heap' of Memory: At Play in Pope's Archives of Dulness"
7	Feb 27	Periodicals – Politeness / Politics Richard Steele, <i>Tatler</i> Joseph Addison & Richard Steele, <i>Spectator</i> Edward Cave's <i>Gentleman's Magazine</i> Eliza Haywood, <i>Female Spectator</i>
8	Mar 6	Religion and Print Readings from Religious Periodicals George Whitefield's autobiographical writings Susan O'Brien, "A Transatlantic Community of Saints: The Great Awakening and the First Evangelical Network, 1735-1755" Frank Lambert, "Whitefield's Adaptation of Commercial Strategies"
	Mar 13	Spring Break
9	Mar 20	Print and Visual Culture William Hogarth, <i>Engravings of Hogarth</i> Walter Benjamin, "The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction" Readings on visual culture TBA
10	Mar 27	Elocutionary Movement - Print refigures speech? Michael Shortland, "Moving Speeches: Language and Elocution in Eighteenth-Century Britain." Readings from Eighteenth-Century Elocutionary Manuals
11	Apr 3	The Novel I: Beginnings Aphra Behn, <i>Oroonoko</i> Eliza Haywood, <i>Love in Excess</i>
12	Apr 10	The Novel II: Blockbuster Samuel Richardson, <i>Pamela</i> Henry Fielding, <i>Shamela</i>
13	Apr 17	Professional Authorship Samuel Johnson <i>Dictionary</i> preface, <i>Plays of Shakespeare</i> preface and specimen of annotation, <i>Rambler</i> essays, <i>Idler</i> essays, <i>The Life of Richard Savage</i>
14	Apr 24	A Counter-Example? William Blake, <i>Songs of Innocence and Experience</i> Joseph Viscomi, from <i>Blake and the Idea of the Book</i>
15	May 1	A Post-Print World? Lev Manovich, "What is New Media?" Presentations on research projects

