

ENGL 7/8264: Leisure and Literature in the Long Eighteenth Century
Dr. Darryl P. Domingo
Fall 2019 Monday 5:30-8:30



Course Description. This course will examine the ways in which leisure is represented in the literature of the “long” eighteenth century (1660-1800), paying close attention to the complex effects of secularization, urbanization, and commodification both on mass entertainment and on pervasive trends in publishing. It will survey conceptions of entertainment during a particularly dynamic period of English cultural history, a period in which leisure *and* literature were being produced in entirely new ways and consumed on a thoroughly commercial basis. While showmen and impresarios actively catered to the eclectic and often eccentric desires of England’s pleasure seekers, professional authors looked for innovative ways to gratify a reading audience increasingly avid for entertainment. This course will ask how, on the one hand, the reading of literature came to be seen during this period as an important leisure activity and why, on the other hand, commercialized leisure emerged as a popular subject in commercial literature that alternately celebrated and satirized the notion of literature *as* leisure.

Required Reading. *The Commerce of Everyday Life: Selections from The Tatler and The Spectator*, ed. Erin Mackie (Bedford, 1998); *The Age of Authors: An Anthology of Eighteenth-Century Print Culture*, ed. Paul Keen (Broadview, 2014); Jonathan Swift, *Gulliver’s Travels*, eds. Claude Rawson and Ian Higgins (Oxford, 2005); Alexander Pope, *Major Works*, ed. Pat Rogers (Oxford, 2006); Henry Fielding, *The History of Tom Jones, A Foundling*, eds. Thomas Keymer and Alice Wakely (Penguin, 2005); Frances Burney, *Evelina, or, A Young Lady’s Entrance into the World*, ed. Susan Kubica Howard (Broadview, 2000).