
ENGL4243: Studies in British Literature Restoration and Eighteenth-Century British Satire

Instructor.	Dr. Darryl P. Domingo	Office Hrs.	Tues. / Thurs.: 11:05-12:05
Location.	Patterson Hall 303	Phone.	678-3458
Time.	Tues. / Thurs.: 9:40-11:05	E-Mail.	dphnrhnd@memphis.edu
Office.	Patterson Hall 431	Session.	Jan. 19 – May 5, 2016

Course Description. Confronted with the vice, folly, and corruption of the modern world, John Dryden states that if he is to write at all, he must write satire: “Since the World with Writing is Possest, / I’ll versifie in spite; and do my best / To make as much waste Paper as the rest” (*The First Satyr of Juvenal, Translated into English Verse*). This section of ENGL 4243 will examine the varieties of satire produced during the Restoration and Eighteenth Century—a period often described as Britain’s great “Age of Satire.” The course will survey the forms and functions of satire, analyzing how and why different authors employed distinct satiric genres in order to ridicule their contemporaries and give impetus to social, political, and cultural reform. We will read verse satires, ironic pamphlets, an ode on wit, mock-epic poems, bawdy lyrics, a digressive farrago, comedies of manners, imitations of classical satyrs, a dystopian travelogue, parodies, urban georgics, and a novel that differentiates itself from farce and burlesque, but that is classified by its intrusive narrator as a “comic Epic-Poem in Prose.” An assumption of the course will be that humorous works which provoke laughter often broach issues that are so complex or threatening that they would be difficult to deal with in a more serious mode. While the course will contextualize the objects of satire and the perceived causes of literary and cultural decline, it will also consider the implication of satirists in that which they satirize: the fact that, in immersing themselves in corruption, satirists like Dryden are inevitably also corrupted, producing “as much waste Paper as the rest.”

Required Reading. Most of the literature that students will be required to read for this course will be included in *British Literature, 1640-1789: An Anthology*, 3rd edition, ed. Robert DeMaria Jr. (Cambridge, Mass.: Blackwell, 2008 / 9781405119283). Students will also be required to read Jonathan Swift, *Gulliver’s Travels*, eds. Claude Rawson and Ian Higgins (Oxford, 2005 / 9780199536849) and Henry Fielding, *Joseph Andrews* and *Shamela*, ed. Douglas Brooks-Davies, Martin C. Battestin, and Thomas Kemyer (Oxford, 2008 / 9780199536986). In addition, they will be encouraged to consult *The Bedford Glossary of Critical and Literary Terms*, 3rd edn., ed. Ross Murfin and Supryia M. Ray (Bedford/St. Martin’s, 2009 / 9780312461881).

Learning Outcomes. Upon successful completion of the course, students should be able to:

- Identify characteristic genres and define terms relevant to British literature of the late seventeenth and eighteenth century.
- Explain the forms and functions of satire as a literary mode.
- Describe the particular contributions of major satirists of the period.
- Appreciate the vital reciprocal relationship between literary text and cultural context.

- Orally discuss critical issues concerning the literature and culture of the late seventeenth and eighteenth century, and write about these issues in a clear and coherent manner.
- Employ the conventions of Standard Written English and MLA or Chicago style.

Method of Instruction. Lectures, with a strong emphasis on classroom discussion.