
ENGL3214 - 001: Eighteenth-Century British Literature “Novelty and the Early English Novel”

Instructor.	Dr. Darryl P. Domingo	Office Hrs.	Tues. / Thurs. 2:25 – 3:25
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Course Description. In this section of ENGL 3214, we will examine the development of the newest and most controversial of the many inter-related literary genres competing for cultural ascendance in England between the late-seventeenth and late-eighteenth century: the eponymous *novel*. Although it is now difficult for us to think of it as something that could ever have been new, during its formative years the novel provoked considerable anxiety among critics who identified the genre as an upstart which seemed not to have classical precedent and who associated it with gossip-mongering, criminality, pornography, and printed trash. This course will analyze why the early novel provoked such anxiety, how early novelists attempted self-consciously to legitimize prose fiction by theorizing it, and what caused this theory to be at frequent odds with the actual practice of writing and reading. What was *new* about the *novel* and how did writers exploit the genre’s *novelty* so as alternately to divert and instruct a mass market of readers who were invariably also pleasure-seekers? By placing novelistic texts by Behn, Defoe, Swift, Haywood, Richardson, Fielding, and Burney in their original cultural contexts, this course will introduce students not only to the emergent novel, but to the world that produced what has become *the* modern literary genre.

Required Reading. Aphra Behn, *Oroonoko and Other Writings*, ed. Paul Salzman (Oxford, 2009 / 9780199538768); Daniel Defoe, *Moll Flanders*, ed. Albert J. Rivero (Norton, 2003 / 9780393978629); Jonathan Swift, *Gulliver’s Travels*, eds. Claude Rawson and Ian Higgins (Oxford, 2005 / 9780199536849); Eliza Haywood, *Fantomina and other Works*, eds. Alexander Petit *et al.* (Broadview, 2004 / 9781551115245); Samuel Richardson, *Pamela; or, Virtue Rewarded*, eds. Thomas Keymer and Alice Wakely (Oxford, 2001 / 9780199536498); Henry Fielding, *Joseph Andrews* and *Shamela*, ed. Thomas Keymer *et al.* (Oxford, 2008 / 9780199536986); Frances Burney, *Evelina, or, A Young Lady’s Entrance into the World*, ed. Susan Kubica Howard (Broadview, 2000 / 9781551112374).