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## ENGL 4243 / 6243: Studies in British Literature News and the Early English Novel

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<b>Instructor.</b>	Dr. Darryl P. Domingo	<b>Office Hrs.</b>	Mon. / Wed. 11:40 – 12:40
<b>Location.</b>	Patterson Hall 323	<b>Phone.</b>	(901) 678-3458
<b>Time.</b>	Mon. / Wed. 12:40 – 2:05	<b>E-Mail.</b>	dphnrhnd@memphis.edu
<b>Office.</b>	Patterson Hall 407	<b>Session.</b>	Jan. 21 – May 7, 2020

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**Course Description.** In this combined section of ENGL 4243 and 6243, we will examine the development of the newest and most controversial of the many inter-related genres competing for cultural ascendance in England between the late-seventeenth and mid-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, 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. In particular, we will explore the surprising intersections of early novels and newspapers, both of which catered to the public desire for contemporaneity—for the latest thing. What was *new* about the *novel* and how did writers like Behn, Defoe, Swift, Haywood, Richardson, and Fielding exploit the genre's novelty to divert and instruct readers who were invariably also newsmongers?

**Required Reading.** *The Commerce of Everyday Life: Selections from The Tatler and The Spectator*, ed. Erin Mackie (Bedford/St. Martin's, 1998 / 9780312163716); 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).

