

Course number and section: ENGL 374.101

Course Topic: British Literature in the Age of Enlightenment: 18th-Century Satire

Credits: 3

Term: Term 2 (January-April)

Instructor: Eggleston

Course Description:

The long 18th century was an age of satire, and its poems, plays, and prose works are filled with invective, wit, mockery, and gentle laughter. This course examines selected examples of English satire produced from the 1660s to the 1740s. Students will study the primary texts in relation to their literary, cultural, and historical contexts. They can expect to develop a knowledge of how 17th- and 18th-century authors used satire to reflect upon literary taste, politics and power, gender and marriage, and inequality and social class.

Tentative Reading List:

John Dryden, selected poems

Aphra Behn, selected poems

John Wilmot, selected poems

Anne Finch, selected poems

Jonathan Swift, A Modest Proposal; Gulliver's Travels (prose)

John Gay, The Beggar's Opera (play)

Alexander Pope, selected poems

Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, selected poems