

St. Thomas University
 Department of English
 Winter 2014
 ENGL 3573 Literature of the Later Eighteenth Century
 TTH 11:30 – 12:50
 Room ECH 103

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 and by appointment

Eccentrics at the Centre:

Johnson, Boswell, and Literature of the Later Eighteenth Century

The course examines the literature of the later eighteenth century through the writings of Samuel Johnson, author of the English *Dictionary*, among other works, and his biographer James Boswell. Both Johnson and Boswell became central to English literary production and consumption, yet their works and lives register anxiety and exhibit marked eccentricity. They were outsiders vexed by the question of what is “central” and what might be authoritative aesthetic norms in a rapidly urbanizing commercial society. In addressing and stimulating literary eccentricities, Johnson and Boswell helped to modernize and commodify a wide range of genres: biography, verse satire, periodical prose, novels, autobiography, and of course, the dictionaries and other compendia that were the currency of the literary marketplace. The central preoccupations of English literature emerge in the output of the period, roughly 1737 to the 1790s, the most striking feature of which is its variety and non-conformity to either neoclassical norms or enlightenment values. The polarities of centrality and eccentricity in the literary, aesthetic, psychological, political, economic, and geographical senses inform our reading of works primarily by Johnson and Boswell, but including also short novels by Samuel Richardson, Henry Fielding, Horace Walpole, and Henry Mackenzie.

Summary of Evaluation:

Attendance	10 %
Reading assignments (3 X 20 %)	60 %
Take-home Exam	30 %

NOTE: All assignments must be completed in order to receive a final grade for this course.

Required texts (in order of appearance on the syllabus):

Joseph Black et al., eds., *The Broadview Anthology of British Literature: The Restoration and the Eighteenth Century*. Second Edition. (indicated on the syllabus as “B”)
 Samuel Johnson, *The History of Rasselas, Prince of Abissinia*
 Samuel Richardson, *Pamela: or, Virtue Rewarded*
 Mackenzie, *The Man of Feeling*

Additional required texts available in .pdf on course Moodle site:

Johnson, "London"

Johnson, *Life of Savage*

Juvenal, "Tenth Satire"

Edward Young, "Conjectures on Original Composition"

Henry Fielding, *Shamela*

Longinus, *On the Sublime*

Adam Smith, from *The Theory of Moral Sentiments*

Boswell, *London Journal 1762-1763* (excerpts additional to those provided in B)

Boswell, "O Madness! terror of mankind" (bad poetry)

Boswell, "The Hypochondriack"

Attendance and Participation

Participation will be measured by attendance. Students are expected to arrive in class on time with the assigned reading completed. More than three absences without a medical note will diminish the participation grade.

Evaluation

Students are required to complete three short reading assignments, due roughly at the end of each month (see dates below), and a final take-home exam, due on the scheduled exam date of April 16. The reading assignments are as follows:

Assignment # 1, due Thursday, January 30, covers:

Johnson, "London"

Boswell, *The Life of Samuel Johnson*

Johnson, *The Life of Richard Savage*

Assignment #2, due Thursday, February 27, covers:

Johnson, "The Vanity of Human Wishes"

Richardson, *Pamela* and Fielding, *Shamela*

Assignment #3, due Tuesday, April 1, covers:

Johnson, *Rasselas*

Walpole, *The Castle of Otranto*

Mackenzie, *The Man of Feeling*

Submission of assignments:

A paper will not be considered late as long as it is submitted to the Instructor's mailbox in ECH 220 by 4 p.m. on the date due, and provided the student attends class that day. A paper's point total will be reduced by one point for each day it is late. Extensions may be granted provided that arrangements are made outside of class and before the paper is due. Papers over one week late may not be accepted, at the discretion of the Instructor.

Papers must be typed in 12-pt. font size and double-spaced. Pages must be numbered, stapled, and otherwise conform to MLA formatting conventions. Note that MLA requires student identification to appear in the upper, left-hand corner of page one rather than on a cover page. Consult the *MLA Handbook* for these and other specifications.

No papers will be accepted by fax or email. Please do not bind papers in plastic.

Plagiarism and Cheating:

See the St. Thomas University *Calendar*, pages 320-322, for definitions and consequences.

Email Correspondence:

Please reserve email correspondence to emergency or otherwise pressing circumstances. Use class time and Instructor office hours to communicate in person as much as possible. If you do send the Instructor an email, please put the course number, ENGL 3573, in the subject line. Please consider and compose email messages as official correspondence that is proofread and uses correct terms of address before sending. A response may take up to two days.

Provisional Schedule of Readings, Lectures, Assignments

- T Jan 7 Introduction to the course and materials: Samuel Johnson, James Boswell
 TH Jan 9 **The City as Cultural Centre:**
 Johnson's "London" (1738) (.pdf)
 Oliver Goldsmith, "The Deserted Village" (1770) (B 873)
 Joseph Addison, *Spectator* 414 (B 938-939)
 Anon., "The Character of a Coffee-House" (B 919)
 Anon., "Coffee-Houses Vindicated" (B 920)
- T Jan 14 **Two Johnsons, Eccentric and Central: Boswell's Myth-making**
 Boswell's *The Life of Samuel Johnson* (1791), pp. 4-34
 (www.broadviewpress.com/babl)
 TH Jan 16 cont'd
- T Jan 21 **Biography as Literary Centre:**
 Johnson's *Lives of the English Poets* (1779-1781)
Life of Pope (1781) (B 797) and *Life of Savage* (1744) (.pdf)
 TH Jan 23 cont'd
- T Jan 28 Johnson, *Rambler* 60 "On Biography" (1750) (B 771)
 TH Jan 30 Johnson, *Rambler* 155 "On Becoming Acquainted with Our Real
 Characters" (1751) (B 774)
- Assignment # 1 due**
- T Feb 4 **The Eccentric Norm: Imitation and Invention:**
 Johnson, "The Vanity of Human Wishes" (1749) (B 761)
 Juvenal's Tenth Satire (.pdf)
 TH Feb 6 Edward Young, "Conjectures on Original Composition" (1759)
 (.pdf);
- T Feb 11 **Novel Invention**
 Johnson, *Rambler* 4 "On Fiction" (1750) (B 766)
 Samuel Richardson, *Pamela, or Virtue Rewarded* (1740)
 TH Feb 13 Richardson, *Pamela* cont'd
- T Feb 18 *Pamela* cont'd
 TH Feb 20 *Pamela* cont'd; Henry Fielding, *Shamela* (1741) (.pdf)

- T Feb 25 **Dictionary Johnson: Empire and the Work of English**
 Preface to *The Dictionary of the English Language* (1755) and
 selected entries (B 783); Letter “To the Earl of Chesterfield”
 (1755) (B 800)
- TH Feb 27 Johnson, *Rambler* 12 “Cruelty of Employers” (1750) (B 769); *Idler*
 26 and 29 “Betty Broom” (1758) (B 776, 778)
- Assignment #2 due**
- T Mar 4 SPRING BREAK. No class.
 TH Mar 6 SPRING BREAK. No class.
- T Mar 11 **Oriental Novelty**
 Johnson, *Rasselas* (1759)
- TH Mar 13 cont’d
- T Mar 18 **The Gothic and the Sentimental: Transcendental Eccentricity?**
 Horace Walpole, *The Castle of Otranto* (1765) (B)
 (www.broadviewpress.com/babl)
 Edmund Burke, *A Philosophical Enquiry into the Origin of Our*
 Ideas of the Sublime and the Beautiful (1757) (B 943)
 Longinus, *On the Sublime* (1st century CE) (.pdf);
- TH Mar 20 Walpole, *The Castle of Otranto* cont’d
- T Mar 25 **The Sentimental Sublime:**
 Henry Mackenzie, *The Man of Feeling* (1771)
 Adam Smith, from *The Theory of Moral Sentiments* (1759) (.pdf)
- TH Mar 27 Mackenzie cont’d
- T Apr 1 **Assignment #3 due**
- Self-centredness as Autobiography:**
 Boswell *London Journal* (1762-3) www.broadviewpress.com/babl
 and additional excerpts (.pdf)
 Boswell, “O Madness! terror of mankind” (.pdf);
 Boswell, “The Hypochondriack” papers (.pdf)
- TH Apr 3 **Afterlife** of Boswell and The Eighteenth Century:
 Boswell as MacHeath: Robert Crumb’s 1981 Klassic Komic
 version of *Boswell’s London Journal 1762-1763* (.pdf)
- T Apr 8 Review and hand out of take-home exam
- Take-home exam due in Morgan mailbox, ECH 220, on Wednesday, April 16 by 4 p.m.**

Citations for Documents on .pdf
 Prof. Dawn Morgan
 Winter 2014

Boswell, James. *The Hypochondriack (1777-1783). Boswell's Column, Being his Seventy Contributions to The London Magazine under the pseudonym The Hypochondriack from 1777 to 1783 here first Printed in Book Form in England.* Introduction and Notes Margery Bailey. London: William Kimber, 1951. 21-30; 42-51; 207-214; 318-325. [HIL PR 3325.A65 1951 (Storage) and XX(1570642.1). Plus illustrations: Frontispiece, facing 104, facing 160, and facing 176.]

---. *Boswell's London Journal 1762-1763.* Second Edition. Ed. Frederick A. Pottle. Foreword Peter Ackroyd. Yale UP, 2004. [HIL PR 3325.A825 2004]

---. "O Madness! terror of mankind" (1758) and "Soft melancholy, deep reflection's child" (n.d.). *Boswell's Book of Bad Verse.* Ed. Jack Werner. London: White Lion Publishers, 1974. 63-65. [HIL Storage PR 3325.B63 1975]

Fielding, Henry. *Joseph Andrews and Shamela.* Ed. Martin C. Battestin. London: Methuen, 1965. 297-340 and Notes 367-370.

Johnson, Samuel. "London." *Samuel Johnson: Selected Poetry and Prose.* Ed. Frank Brady and W.K. Wimsatt. Berkeley: U of California P, 1977. 47-54. [HIL PR 3522.B65 1977 C:2]

---. "Richard Savage ?1697-1742." *Samuel Johnson: Selected Poetry and Prose.* Ed. Frank Brady and W.K. Wimsatt. Berkeley: U of California P, 1977. 561-628. [HIL PR 3522.B65 1977 C:2]

Juvenal. *Tenth Satire, On the Vanity of Human Wishes* (first century CE). Tr. Rolfe Humphries. Bloomington: Indiana UP, 1958. 121-134. [HWK PA 6447.E5 H92]

Longinus, *On the Sublime* (c. 1st century CE). *Longinus, On the Sublime: the Greek Text.* Longinus, W.R. Roberts, Arthur S. Way. New York: AMS, 1979. 76-102.

Smith, Adam, "Of the Sense of Propriety," from *The Theory of Moral Sentiments* (1759). London: Henry G. Bohn, 1853. 3-30. [HIL BJ 1005.S6 1966]

Young, Edward, "Conjectures on Original Composition." *Eighteenth-Century English Literature.* Eds. Geoffrey Tillotson et al. San Diego: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1969. 871-889. [HIL PR 1134.T5]