G-LSUD3 EnLit330: The 18th Century Novel

Spring Semester 2015
Instructor: Dr. Kanarakis Yannis (yanniskanarakis@gmail.com)

Class:
Office hours: Mondays 11:30-14:00

COURSE DESCRIPTION
The course looks at the emergence, development, diffusion and popularity of the novel in 18th-century Britain. It examines the formal characteristics that differentiate the novel from earlier forms of prose fiction and the relation between culture and genre, i.e. the novels’ response to changing modes of perception as these were affected by the new philosophy and science, the rise of the middle classes and free trade ideas, the influence of the Press and the taste of new reading publics. Focusing on the work of major canonical writers (Fielding, Richardson, Sterne), we shall examine how their novels relate to such changes in outlook, values and practices, what image of ‘reality’ and ‘human nature’ they construct, and how the novels reflect, respond to or try to resolve the tension between traditional orthodoxies and new developments. The course will also explore all major subgenres that have contributed to the rise and popularity of the novel, such as, epistolary writing, the picaresque, Augustan satire, and sentimentality.

COURSE ASSESSMENT/REQUIREMENTS
- Students can choose either to take the end-of-semester exam which will cover the entire semester OR write an MLA-styled research paper of about 4.000 words (40%) and answer only one question in the final exam (60%). Students who opt for the essay should have some experience in the writing of research papers. The topic will be chosen individually by each student after consultation with the instructor. Papers should be handed in at appointed dates during the semester. The intention of the essay scheme is to provide the opportunity for the exercise of research and critical skills to those students who are seriously interested in pursuing this line of academic occupation. For further details, as well as advice on methodological assistance, please contact the instructor.
- Even though there will be no specific percentage of your grade attached to participation and attendance, contributing regularly to class discussions will help your grade significantly. To this purpose, you will be expected to study the assigned material before coming to class.

COURSE MATERIAL
Books
1) Samuel Richardson, *Pamela, or Virtue Rewarded* (1740).
WORKING SCHEDULE

Weeks 1, 2, 3.
The Rise of the Novel:
Background reading on theories of the novel and debates about its origins.

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Weeks 4, 5, 6
KEY TEXT: Samuel Richardson, Pamela, or Virtue Rewarded (1740).

The epistolary novel
The rise of print Culture
Female Domesticity
Romance

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<th>Author</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Doody, Margaret Anne</td>
<td>A Natural Passion: A Study of the Novels of Samuel Richardson, 1974.</td>
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Weeks 7, 8, 9, 10

Augustan Satire / The Burlesque / Mock-Heroic / Parody
Picaresque
Narrator & Reader: The Rising Reading Public
Digression
Realism

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**Weeks 11, 12, 13**

**KEY TEXT: Laurence Sterne, *A Sentimental Journey Through France and Italy* (1768).**

**Sentimentality**
**Travel Writing**
**Stream of Consciousness**


**SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY**

**THE RISE OF THE NOVEL**
Doody, Margaret Anne. *The True Story of the Novel.*
Hobsbawm, E.J.. *Industry and Empire*
Hunter, J. Paul. «What was New about the Novel?» in *Before Novels: The Cultural*
*Context of Eighteenth-Century English Fiction.*


**SAMUEL RICHARDSON**


Fasick, Laura. «The Edible Woman: Eating and Breast-Feeding in the Novels of Samuel Richardson,» 1993.

Habermas, Jurgen. *The Structural Transformation of the Public Sphere.*

Garcia, Pedro Javier. «Novel, Romance and Quixotism in Richardson’s Pamela,» 1996.


Park, William. «What was New about the ‘New Species of Writing,’» 1970.

Poovey, Mary. «Aesthetics and Political Economy in the 18th Century: The Place of Gender in the Social Constitution of Knowledge»


Townsend, Alex. *Autonomous Voices: An Exploration of Polyphony in the Novels of Samuel Richardson,* 1970.


**HENRY FIELDING**


**LAURENCE STERNE**

Braudy, Leo. «The Form of the Sentimental Novel»
Duncan, Jeffrey. «The Rural Ideal in 18th Century Fiction,» 1968.
MacLean, Kenneth. «Imagination and Sympathy: Sterne and Adam Smith».
«The Comic Sublime and Sterne’s Fiction».
Smitten, Jeffrey. «Spatial Form as Narrative Technique in ‘A Sentimental Journey’,» 1975.
McGann, Jerome. The Poetics of Sensibility: A Revolution in Literary Style.
Ellis, Markman. The Politics of Sensibility: Race, Gender, and Commerce in the Sentimental Novel, 1996.