

ENGLISH 433/533: HISTORIES OF WRITING, READING, & PUBLISHING

Fall 2004
Royall Hall 312
T-R 11:00-12:15
Office Hours: T-R 1:00-2:00 & by appointment
<http://georgehwiliams.net>

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Lo! thy dread Empire, Chaos! is restored;
Light dies before thy uncreating word:
Thy hand, great Anarch! lets the curtain fall;
And universal Darkness buries All.
-Alexander Pope, *The Dunciad*

COURSE DESCRIPTION

We have such faith in books that we assume the printing press brought with it a wave of enlightenment, as publishing restrictions loosened and print production escalated over the course of the early modern period. As the above quote demonstrates, eighteenth-century observers were not always so optimistic. This course will explore the profound changes taking place from the seventeenth century into the eighteenth as Britain transformed into a print culture.

We will consider several questions: What are the cultural and theoretical implications of different forms of verbal communication and representation, such as speech, manuscript, or print? How did the practices of authorship, readership, and publishing change during this period? What effect did these changes have on the production, distribution, and reception of such traditionally literary materials as essays, novels, and poetry as well as of other materials such as newspapers, magazines, and dictionaries? How did these changes affect, or engender, the fields of journalism, evangelicalism, politics, and literary studies? We will address these issues through a reading of several different seventeenth- and eighteenth-century texts as well as of key contemporary scholarly works.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

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|--------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| 15% | Participation online and in class | Details provided later in syllabus. |
| 20% | Take home exam | Due: October 12 |
| 20% | Annotated Bibliography | Undergraduate students: Annotations of five works of scholarship on a topic of your choice. Graduate students: Annotations of ten works of scholarship on a topic of your choice. Due: November 9 |
| 35% | Final paper | 5%: A 2-page prospectus. Due: November 23 30%: Undergraduate students: A 10- to 15-page critical essay. Graduate students: A 15- to 20-page critical essay. Due by 4:00 on December 10 in 106 Cockefair. |
| 10% | Class Presentation | Dates will vary |
| Student Conference | | You will meet with me to discuss your research project and final paper. Schedule an appointment to talk with me during the 1st week of Nov ^r . (Sooner if you like.) |

REQUIRED TEXTS

William Blake, *Songs of Innocence and of Experience* ISBN 0192810898
Elizabeth Eisenstein, *The Printing Revolution in Early Modern Europe* ISBN 0521447704
William Hogarth, *Engravings by Hogarth* ISBN 0486224791
Erin Mackie, *The Commerce of Everyday Life* ISBN 0312115970
Samuel Richardson, *Pamela* ISBN 0140431403
Various photocopied handouts

COURSE POLICIES

Attendance: I keep track of attendance. Your regular attendance and participation are vital to the success of this class. You may miss three classes without penalty. Your final grade for the course will drop half a letter grade for every class missed beyond that.

Format for written assignments: All work done outside of class to be turned in must be typed or produced on a word processor. Do not put your name on the papers you turn in. Your papers should have the following: no cover page; one-inch margins all the way around the page; text that is 12 point/10 cpi (type face of Courier or Times New Roman); page numbers on every page; one staple in the upper left-hand corner. I do not accept papers turned in as email attachments; however, to provide you with (hopefully) helpful feedback, I am happy to look at an early draft of a paper sent via email attachment at least four business days before the paper is due. If I ask you to rewrite one of your papers, you must turn in the first graded version of the paper along with your revision. I grade anonymously, so don't put your name on the paper. The first page must have your social-security number, the due date, the course number, and my name on the first page in the upper left-hand corner, like this:

123-45-6789
September 13, 2004
English 317
Dr. Williams

Late papers: I will accept one paper late by as much as one class period with no questions asked, but each additional weekday after the one day of grace will lower your paper's grade by one letter grade. If you wish to take advantage of the late paper policy, you must attach a written explanation for the late paper to the paper. After that one paper, I will not accept late papers. You will receive no credit for any additional papers turned in late. Only documented, excused absences will deserve any special consideration. This policy is non-negotiable.

Disabilities: If you have any special needs that will affect your performance in this course, please let me know as soon as possible so that I might work to meet your needs. I will keep the details of all such conversations private. If you have not done so already, you should consider visiting the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities in room 350 of the Administrative Center. 816-235-5696 - <http://www.umkc.edu/disability/> - disability@umkc.edu

Academic Dishonesty: Students are expected to be familiar with the code of student conduct printed in the UMKC General Catalog and on the UMKC website. In this course, any act of dishonesty on an assignment automatically earns a student a grade of 0 (zero) for that assignment as well as referral to the appropriate UMKC office.

Communication: You should take advantage of my office hours, during which time I am happy to talk with you in person. You may also call me on my office telephone, send me an email, or instant message me (feel free to add me to your list of contacts in your instant messaging client). I respond to phone calls and IMs instantaneously (if you reach me), and I respond to emails within 2 business days. Note: In the time before and after class, I am usually distracted and concentrating on what I have to say that particular day. If you have something important to communicate to me, put it in writing and give it to me on paper or via email. You can also speak with me, of course, but I do not guarantee that I will remember what you've told me or asked me unless you also put it in writing. Do not assume that you have my assent or permission for something unless I have put it in writing and given it to you.

Email and Internet access: UMKC provides a free Exchange email account for each student, and I advise you to use this as your account for this class. See <http://www.umkc.edu/exchange-faq/> Using UMKC email is not required, but if you use another email service, you are responsible for ensuring that this service does not block or filter email from me or the class listserv. In the past, some students using non-UMKC accounts have had problems receiving important information.

Details on Participation

All students are required to participate in discussions online and in class. However, if you would prefer to participate only online, then you have the option of keeping an online reading journal in which you will make one relatively informal, 250-word entry every week. You must contact me by the end of the second week of class if you wish to take this option.

Online Questions: You will be responsible for posting on the course website two to three relatively detailed discussion questions related to a given day's reading assignment. To access the appropriate page, click on the date in the calendar on the lefthand side of the course website. A signup sheet will determine which day will feature your questions. The deadline for posting is 24 hours before the class meets. For example, if you are responsible for the discussion questions related to the reading for Thursday, January 29, then you must post by Wednesday, January 28 at 2:00 p.m. at the latest. If you do not meet this deadline, your participation grade for the course will be lowered by 3 points.

Online Responses: You will also be responsible twice for replying to discussion questions posted by a fellow student. Again, the signup sheet will determine which days are your responsibility. The deadline for responding is midnight of the day before the class meets. For example, if you are responding to the questions for Thursday, January 29, you must do so by midnight on Wednesday, January 28. If you do not meet this deadline, your participation grade for the course will be lowered by 3 points.

Participation in class: When the class meets, I will ask the student who posed that day's questions on the course website to read them to the class. I will also ask the students who responded to that day's questions to share their answers with the class. Class discussion involving the rest of the students will then follow. If you are absent on the day you are expected to participate according to this system, your participation grade for the course will be lowered by 3 points.

Even students who have not been assigned to ask or answer questions online should check in on these online exchanges and feel free to participate. Every student is expected to complete each day's reading assignment in time for class, to make some notes containing their thoughts on the reading, and to be prepared to participate in the discussion taking place that day concerning the reading.

COURSE CALENDAR

| | | |
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| T | Aug 24 | Introductions & Course Overview |
| R | Aug 26 | No class: "Celebrate UMKC" http://www.umkc.edu/celebrateumkc |
| T | Aug 31 | Anxiety in Times of Change Sven Birkerts, from <i>The Gutenberg Elegies</i> Gregory Crane, "Historical Perspectives on the Book and Information Technology" Jonathan Swift, "The Battle of the Books" |
| R | Sep 2 | Orality and Literacy Jack Goody & Ian Watt, "The Consequences of Literacy" Walter Ong, "Writing is a Technology that Restructures Thought" David R. Olson, "Writing and the Mind" |
| T | Sep 7 | Book History as a Field of Study Robert Darnton, "What is the History of Books?" John Feather, "The Book in History and the History of the Book" |
| R | Sep 9 | Adams and Barker, "A New Model for the Study of the Book" |
| T | Sep 14 | The Nature and History of Authorship Michel Foucault, "What is an Author?" Roger Chartier, from "Figures of the Author" |
| R | Sep 16 | The Nature and History of Reading Robert Darnton, "First Steps Towards a History of Reading" Additional readings to be announced |
| T | Sep 21 | Samuel Johnson, <i>The Life of Richard Savage</i> |
| R | Sep 23 | Johnson, from <i>Lives of the Poets</i> |
| T | Sep 28 | The Business of Print Readings to be announced |
| R | Sep 30 | Alexander Pope, <i>The Dunciad</i> |
| T | Oct 5 | <i>The Dunciad</i> |
| R | Oct 7 | Samuel Richardson, <i>Pamela</i> Take home exam to be turned in on Tuesday |
| T | Oct 12 | <i>Pamela</i> Due: Exam |
| R | Oct 14 | <i>Pamela</i> |
| T | Oct 19 | <i>Pamela</i> |

- R Oct 21 Regulating Print, or “Does Information Want to be Free?”, part 1
John Feather, from “From Censorship to Copyright: Aspects of the Government's Role in the English Book Trade 1695-1775”
Ben Franklin, “An Apology for Printers”
Bill of Rights, 1st Amendment to the Constitution of the United States (photocopies)
- T Oct 26 John Milton, Areopagetica
- R Oct 28 Areopagetica
- T Nov 2 Intellectual Property, or “Does Information Want to be Free?”, part 2
Mark Rose, from Authors and Owners: Invention of Copyright
John Feather, from Publishing, Piracy, and Politics
- R Nov 4 Periodicals & News
- T Nov 9 Periodicals & News
Due: Annotated Bibliography
- R Nov 11 Print & Visual Culture
William Hogarth, Engravings of Hogarth
Walter Benjamin, “The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction”
- T Nov 16 A Counter-Example?
William Blake, Songs of Innocence
Read “Illuminated Printing” at
<http://www.blakearchive.org/about-blake.html>
- R Nov 18 William Blake, Songs of Experience
- T Nov 23 The Cultural Impact of Print
Elizabeth Eisenstein, Printing Revolution
Due: 2-page Prospectus
- R Nov 25 No class: Thanksgiving
- T Nov 30 Eisenstein, Printing Revolution
- R Dec 2 Eisenstein, Printing Revolution
- T Dec 7 Draft Workshop of Final Paper
- R Dec 9 No class: University Reading Day
- F Dec 10 Due: Final Paper by 4:00 in 106 Cockefair