Acadia University Faculty of Arts

***English 2773 X1: Eighteenth-Century Fiction***

Fall Session 2013-2014

MW 2:30pm-3:50pm Location: BAC 207

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| Instructor: Dr. Jon Saklofske Email: jon.saklofske@acadiau.ca | Office: BAC 423 Office Phone: 585-1442 Office Hours: TBA |

**Course Description and Objectives:**

This course will introduce students to the emergence of the novel as a genre in Great Britain from the 1680s to the 1790s. The lack of consensus regarding what a novel was or should be led to some interesting experimentation and variety. In this class, we will use the rise of the novel to engage with questions about genre and gender, form and function, and the social and political implications of reading and writing.

**Course Materials and Format:**

NOTE: All textbooks for this course are available for purchase at the “Box of Delights Bookstore”: 466 Main Street in Wolfville (across the street from Pronto Pizza and beside the travel agency).

1. Nixon, Cheryl. Novel Definitions: An Anthology of Commentary on the Novel 1688-1815.
* Broadview Press, 2009.
1. Aphra Behn, Oroonoko
* Oxford Paperbacks: **ISBN-10:** 019953876X ; **ISBN-13:** 978-0199538768
1. Daniel DeFoe, Robinson Crusoe (1719)
* Oxford UP: **ISBN-10:** 0199553971; **ISBN-13:** 978-0199553976
1. JonathanSwift, Gulliver’s Travels (1726)
* Oxford UP: **ISBN-10:** 0199536848; **ISBN-13:** 978-0199536849
1. Laurence Sterne, Tristram Shandy (1759-1766)
* Oxford UP: **ISBN-10:** 0199532893; **ISBN-13:** 978-0199532896
1. Charlotte Smith, Desmond (1792)
* Broadview: **ISBN-10:** 1551112744; **ISBN-13:** 978-1551112749
1. Jane Austen, Northanger Abbey (1798)
* Broadview: Second Edition: **ISBN-10**: 1551114798; **ISBN-13**: 9781551114798

**Assignments and Evaluation:**

Students are expected to attend class, to participate in class discussion and to fully participate in the technological components of this course. Please note that January October 25, 2013 is the last day to drop full-year courses without academic penalty. It is essential that assigned readings be read carefully and critically. The final grade will be based on the following partial grades:

**10%** Essay #1: **Due October 2** (900 words minimum)

**15%** Essay #2: **Written October 30** (1200 words minimum)

**20%** Essay #3: **Due November 26** (1500 words minimum)

**10 %** Attendance, In-Class Participation and Quizzes

**15%** Context presentation and related Wiki entry

**30%** Final Exam

**Total: 100%**

If you are a student with a documented disability who anticipates needing accommodations in this course, please inform me after you meet Jill Davies (902-585-1127) or Kathy O’Rourke (902-585-1823) in Disability Access Services, Student Resource Centre, lower floor of the Old SUB (Old Student Union Building).

**Essays:**

* All double-spaced, 12-point font **essays** should consist of a central thesis supported by a well-structured argument. Topics will be provided for the assignments through ACORN in the first few weeks of the course. Essays will be evaluated for both content and style. Please provide proper documentation for secondary sources, making use of MLA citation style and including a Works Cited page. (For information on MLA style, please consult a style guide or go to: <http://libguides.acadiau.ca/content.php?pid=24343&sid=175326>
* For all essays, use the VUE mindmapping tool (available [here](http://vue.tufts.edu/download/index.cfm)) to create a visual outline of your paper. Export the map as an image file and paste the image in to your paper after the works cited page. If you submit your paper without this outline, 1/3 of a letter grade will be deducted from your mark.
* All essay assignments should be submitted to me electronically via ACORN. We will spend some class time reviewing the characteristics of an effective essay. **Please note that I will not accept assignments submitted after the last day of lectures.**

**Context Presentations:**

* Please sign up for one context research presentation slot during the term as soon as you’re able. Thoroughly research your topic, relate it to the day’s readings then present it to your peers in an engaging and creative fashion. Following the presentation (and by the end of the day that your presentation is scheduled on), you will contribute a minimum 600-word, media-rich summary of your topic on the class wiki (ACORN). Both the presentation and wiki will count towards the context presentation mark (15%).

**Final Exam:**
There will be a mandatory, comprehensive final examination scheduled during the December exam period. The final examination will be worth 30% of your final grade.

**Penalties:**

1. **Late Assignments:** Papers are due *before the beginning of class* on the specified due date. After or during class is considered late. It is your responsibility to contact me as soon as possible regarding late or missed assignments. **Late assignments are subject to a penalty of 1/3 letter grade per day (including weekends) unless you are granted an extension due to *documented* medical or compassionate circumstances** (i.e a “B” paper that is handed in two days late would receive a mark of “C+”). As well, late assignments will be graded, but will include no written commentary. Late essays not submitted electronically MUST be date stamped and submitted to me via the English Department Office (Room 415, BAC). I do not accept papers submitted under my office door.

**Plagiarism**: Please refer to the section entitled "Academic Integrity" in the 2013-2014 Calendar for Acadia University's policies regarding plagiarism. Note that penalties for plagiarism include rewriting work, receiving a failing grade for a particular assignment, failing the course or being dismissed from the university. Please be aware that faculty members reserve the right to utilise software or websites to test student assignments for the presence of plagiarised material. Although some class time will be spent learning how to avoid the pitfalls of plagiarism, when in doubt, ask me for advice or go to <http://library.acadiau.ca/guides/plagiarism/>

1. **Attendance**: Attendance is mandatory. More than 3 unexcused absences per term will result in a significant deduction from your participation mark.

***Please note that I will not accept assignments submitted after the last day of lectures.***

 ***(Monday, December 2, 2013)***

**Tentative Reading Schedule:**

* Readings may be altered as the term progresses

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| Month | Dates | Main Readings | Novel Definitions readings |
| September | 4 | Introduction* What is narrative?
* What is a novel?
 |  TBA |
|  | 9, 11, 16 | Aphra Behn, Oroonoko |  TBA |
|  | 18, 23, 25, 30 | Daniel DeFoe, Robinson Crusoe |  TBA |
| October | 2, 7, 9 16 | Jonathan Swift, Gulliver’s TravelsNo class on October 14 (Thanksgiving Day) |  TBA |
|  | 21, 23, 28, 30 | Laurence Sterne, Tristram Shandy |  TBA |
| November | 4, 6, 13, 18 | Charlotte Smith, DesmondNo class on November 11 (Remembrance Day) |  TBA |
|  | 20, 25, 27, 2  | Jane Austen, Northanger Abbey |  TBA |