

Course Title : Masters Seminar in Brit. Lit. I: Drama and the Novel

Professor Name: Dr. Aleksandra Hultquist

Course Description:

From where does the novel come? Everyone seems to have slightly different answer depending on what is at stake: rhetorics of virtue?—the novel comes from the conduct book; rhetorics of romance?—the novel is French; rhetorics of adventure?—the novel is born of ships' logs; the list continues. I have another theory: the novel comes from drama. This course offers an alternative discourse to the rise of the novel based on the idea that early fiction owes a debt to Restoration and eighteenth-century playwriting. The readings will be situated within broader cultural and critical contexts, with lectures and/or readings of some the main literary critical lenses of the Restoration drama and early fiction: libertinism, performance theory, the public/private binary, metadramatic technique, and gender constructs.

Texts: Sir George Etherege, *Man of Mode*; William Wycherley, *The Country Wife*; William Congreve, *Incognita* and *Way of the World*; Aphra Behn, *History of the Nun* and *Oroonoko*; Thomas Southern, *The History of the Nun* and *Oroonoko* Susannah Centlivre, *Bold Stroke* (or *The Wonder*); Daniel Defoe, *Roxana*; Eliza Haywood, *Fantomina*, *The British Recluse*, *A Wife to be Lett*; Fanny Burney, *Cecelia*, *The Witlings*, *The Woman Hater*

Requirements: presentation; 8-10 page paper; 15-20 page seminar paper; annotated bibliography; conference proposal

6105 Syllabus/Schedule

- Week 1: Course Introduction
- Week 2: Etherege, *Man of Mode* (background reading)
- Week 3: Wycherley, *The Country Wife* (background reading)
- Week 4: Congreve, *Incognita* and *Way of the World*
- Week 5: Behn, *History of the Nun*; Southern, *The Fatal Marriage*
- Week 6: Behn, *Oroonoko*; Southern, *Oroonoko*
- Paper due
- Week 7: Centlivre, *Bold Stroke* or *The Wonder*
- Week 8: Defoe, *Roxana*
- Week 9: Haywood, *The British Recluse* and *Fantomina*
- Week 10: Haywood, *A Wife to be Lett*

- Week 11: Burney, *Cecelia*
- Week 12: Burney, *Cecelia*
- Week 13: Burney, *The Witlings*
- Week 14: Burney, *The Woman Hater*
- Week 15: Seminar Paper due