In this class we’ll be reading British literature of the years 1660-1740, concentrating on three of the most notable developments of this era of literary history: Restoration comedy, Scriblerian satire, and novels and journalism.

**Course Goals: In this course, you will**
- read a range of major texts by major figures in British literature.
- survey some of the genres that were central to this period of literary history, such as the periodical essay, verse satire, and the comedy of manners.
- study literary texts from both a “formalist” and a “historicist” perspective; that is, we will study these texts both as carefully constructed works of art and as products of a particular historical context.
- write about literary texts, structuring arguments with clear thesis statements and supporting your thesis with textual evidence.
- practice both oral communication and historical research by doing a presentation on the literary and historical context of a single year.

**Required Texts** (available at bookstore):

Joseph Addison and Richard Steele, *The Commerce of Everyday Life* (Bedford)  
Eliza Haywood, *Love in Excess* (Broadview)  
Daniel Defoe, *Roxana* (Oxford)

**Course requirements:** Presentation, three papers, and in-class participation. Grading will be weighted as follows: presentation 15%, three papers 25% each, and participation (including attendance) 10%.

**Papers:** You will write one paper for each of the three units of the course. I will hand out assignment sheets for each paper detailing length and topic requirements, but in general each paper will be around five pages and will ask you to engage closely with one or more of the texts for that unit. For papers one and two, you will have the opportunity to rewrite. Rewrites are due before the last day of class. You must submit your graded first version of the paper with the rewrite, and the grades will be averaged. Graduate students may either write three longer papers or one final seminar paper of around 15 to 20 pages.
Presentation instructions: In your presentations, you will be responsible for providing background information on the historical and cultural contexts of a single year during this period. Presentations should be around ten minutes. I will hand out a sheet detailing the presentation requirements and possible research resources, and will also include links to electronic resources on Web Campus.

Other class policies:
- Class attendance is mandatory. You are allowed three unexcused absences; more than that will result in a reduced grade. If you know you will miss class because of travel, illness, or another reason you must let me know ahead of the class time (via email is fine) for it to count as excused. I will take attendance at the beginning of the class period. If you show up more than ten minutes late for class your attendance may not be counted.
- Papers will automatically be reduced by a full letter grade if they are turned in late. I cannot accept late papers after the time that I turn back that paper to the class (usually about three or four classes after the due date).
- We will be on a tight schedule for presentations, so you must do your presentation on the day you sign up for. If you know you will not be able to make your presentation day, you must let me know ahead of class time to make alternate arrangements.
- Plagiarism includes any unacknowledged borrowing from a written source, website, or fellow student. Any student who plagiarizes in a written assignment or in their presentation will automatically fail the course. Particularly egregious cases may be reported to the appropriate authorities (department chair, associate dean, etc.) at the discretion of the instructor.
- I would request that no electronic devices be used in the classroom. Please silence your phones and other beeping devices. I would prefer that you not take notes on a computer. This is a seminar-style class where we will be engaged with discussing the ideas of the texts we read rather than memorizing facts about them. It is better for you to listen to and take part in the discussions than to frantically transcribe what others are saying (thus leaving you open to the temptation of checking your email, etc.).
- Over the course of the semester, there may be extra credit opportunities for attending and writing a short response to university events.
- You can contact me by phone, email, or via Web Campus. The Web Campus site will include the course syllabus, paper assignments, links to resources for the presentations, and perhaps other materials. If I need to contact the class for any reason, I will do so via Web Campus.

Disabilities: If you have a documented disability that may require assistance, you will need to contact the Disability Resource Center. They are located in the Student Services Complex, room A-143. The telephone number is 895-0866 / TDD 895-0652. For more information see http://studentlife.unlv.edu/disability/

Academic Assistance: Students needing additional help with written assignments are encouraged to make use of the Writing Center. You can find information on their policies and location at http://writingcenter.unlv.edu. Tutoring is available through the Academic Success Center: http://academicsuccess.unlv.edu/tutoring.
Schedule of readings and assignments:

Unit one: Restoration Comedy
August 27: background material on the theatre in *Restoration Comedy* (535-62)
September 1, 3: William Wycherley, *The Country Wife*
September 8, 10: Aphra Behn, *The Rover*
September 15, 17: William Congreve, *The Way of the World*

Unit two: Scriblerian Satire
September 22: Swift, *Battle of the Books* (1-22) and Bickerstaff Papers (193-216)
September 24: Swift, “Argument against Abolishing Christianity” (217-27), “Discourse Concerning the Mechanical Operation of the Spirit” (165-80), and “A Modest Proposal” (492-99); **paper one due**
September 29: Swift, *A Tale of a Tub* to part 4 (62-120)
October 1: Swift, *A Tale of a Tub* part 5 to end (120-164)
October 6: Swift, poems: “Description of the Morning,” “Description of a City Shower,” “Phyllis,” “The Progress of Beauty,” “A Beautiful Young Nymph Going to Bed,” “Stella’s Birthday 1719,” and “Verses on the Death of Dr. Swift”
October 8: Pope, *Essay on Criticism* (17-39), *Eloisa to Abelard* (137-47), and *Windsor Forest* (49-62)
October 15: Pope, *Essay on Man* (270-309), *Epistle to Arbuthnot* (336-50), and *Epistle to a Lady* (350-58)
October 20: Pope, *Dunciad*, books 1-2 (411-89)

Unit three: Novels and Journalism
October 22: Addison and Steele, section one (41-115)
October 27: Addison and Steele, section three (319-401); **paper two due**
October 29: Addison and Steele, section four (457-545)
November 3: Eliza Haywood, *Love in Excess*, part the first
November 5: Guy Fawkes Day; no class.
November 10: *Love in Excess*, part the second
November 12: *Love in Excess*, the third and last part
November 17, 19, 24, December 1: Daniel Defoe, *Roxana*
December 3: last class

December 10: **paper three due**