ENGLISH 321: THE RISE OF THE NOVEL

The novel as we know it today did not exist until the early nineteenth century, the end point of this course. Before then, fictional prose narratives circulated in Britain under various labels, including “romance,” “history,” “true history” or “secret history,” as well as “novel.” Moreover, the divide between fact and fiction that we now know (or think we know) is not easy to find in some of these early narratives. The early novel was disreputable: as the print market rapidly grew, adding newly literate readers and middle-class authors, cultural and moral gatekeepers warned against it as frivolous and dangerous, especially to the young. How and why did English narrative fiction evolve, and what can we learn from reading various types of proto-novels? We’ll sample several: Haywood’s risqué tale, Defoe’s picaresque, Sterne’s comic novel of sensibility, Burney's epistolary Bildungsroman, and Austen’s early parody of the Gothic.

TEXTS (Duck Store): PLEASE GET BROADVIEW EDITIONS so you can follow along in class.
Eliza Haywood, Fantomina
Daniel Defoe, Moll Flanders
Lawrence Sterne, A Sentimental Journey
Frances Burney, Evelina
Jane Austen, Northanger Abbey

Additional readings on course Blackboard site under “Course Documents.”

REQUIREMENTS
5% Close reading assignment, due April 22
10% Book group assignments: précis/response (2 pp.), discussion questions & lead discussion.
25% Paper 1, 4 pp. minimum, due May 3.
25% Paper 2, 5 pp. minimum, due June 5.
25% Final exam. No early or makeup exams given.
10% Participation and pop quizzes (cannot be made up).

Late paper policy: I accept one late paper per term; use this option wisely. If you choose to hand your paper in late, you must inform me by the due date by phone or email or in person. “On time” means in class on the due date. A late paper is due at the next class meeting after the due date. Papers handed in after the specified time will be graded down. PLAGIARISM WILL RESULT IN AN AUTOMATIC “F” FOR THE COURSE.

Attendance and participation: I will take attendance at every class using a sign-in sheet. It is your responsibility to arrive on time and sign in. I will also give unannounced reading quizzes, which can't be made up. I very much appreciate your talking in class, even (especially) if it’s an effort for you. Class participation is part of your grade and will help you master the material and get ideas for papers.

Book group assignments: I will divide the class into 6 book groups. Each student will take special responsibility for the book assigned to your group: become an expert. The written part of the book group assignment has three parts: a one-page précis of a critical article (posted on Blackboard); a one-page response to the article; and three discussion questions about the book. The written assignment is due in class on the day your group is scheduled to lead a small-group discussion of the reading, for which you will use your three questions.

Writing assignments: I am looking for polished gems: thoughtful, concise, graceful treatments with a clear focus. Every word counts. Plan on writing four drafts, minimum, of each paper.
SCHEDULE

Week 1
W Apr. 3 Haywood 41-71. TERMS: GENRE, NOVEL, ROMANCE.
F 5 Richetti, “Introduction,” and Hunter, ”The Novel and Social/Cultural History” (Blackboard).

Week 2
M 8 Defoe 39-89. TERMS: REALISM, REALISTIC NOVEL, PICAESQUE NOVEL.
W 10 Defoe 89-139.
F 12 Defoe 139-191. Defoe Group 1 leads small group discussions.
Group reading: John Richetti, “Defoe as Narrative Innovator”

Week 3
M 15 Defoe 191-243.
F 19 NO CLASS

Week 4
M 22 Defoe 291-335 (finish). Defoe Group 2 leads small group discussions.
Group reading: Ellen Pollak, "Gender and Fiction in Moll Flanders and Roxana"
CLOSE READING DUE APRIL 22 (1 p.)
W 24 Sterne 57-84 and Appendix A, C (177-188, 200-206). TERMS: SENSIBILITY, SENTIMENTALISM, SENTIMENTAL NOVEL.
F 26 Sterne 84-116 and Appendix E (216-225).

Week 5
M 29 Sterne 119-145.
W May 1 Sterne 145-176 (finish).
F 3 Sterne Group leads small group discussions.
Group reading: Judith Frank, "'A Man Who Laughs is Never Dangerous': The Gentleman's Disposition in A Sentimental Journey."
PAPER 1 DUE MAY 3 (4 pp. minimum)

Week 6
M 6 Burney 89-150. TERM: EPISTOLARY NOVEL, BILDUNGSROMAN.
W 8 Burney 150-206.
F 10 Burney 206-242 (finish Vol. I) and Appendix B, pp. 563-580 (conduct literature).

Week 7
M 13 Burney 245-296.
W 15  Burney 297-350.
F 17  Burney 350-400 (finish Vol. II). **Burney Group 1 leads small group discussions.**
Group reading: Martha G. Brown: "Fanny Burney's 'Feminism': Gender or Genre?"

**Week 8**

M 20  Burney 403-451.
W 22  Burney 452-496.
F 24  Burney 497-554 (finish). **Burney Group 2 leads small group discussions.**
Group reading: Susan Fraiman, "Getting Waylaid in Evelina"

**Week 9**

M 27  **NO CLASS (MEMORIAL DAY)**
W 29  Austen 29-80 and Appendix C (244-252). **TERMS: GOTHIC LITERATURE, PARODY, FREE INDIRECT DISCOURSE.**
F 31  Austen 81-137.

**Week 10**

M June 3  Austen 138-188.
W 5  Austen 188-240 (finish). **Austen Group leads small-group discussions.**
Group reading: Claudia Johnson, "The Authority of Men and Books"

**PAPER 2 DUE JUNE 5 (5 pp. minimum)**

F 7  Wrap-up, review.

**FINAL EXAM**

10:00 section (32901) = Tuesday, June 11, 10:15 a.m.
1:00 section (37865) = Thursday, June 13, 3:15 p.m.