

English 448  
T/H 10:00 – 11:20  
ebohls@uoregon.edu

Professor E. Bohls  
527 PLC  
T/H 12 – 1:30 and by appt.

## THE GLOBAL EIGHTEENTH CENTURY

In 1797 the London *Critical Review* proclaimed, “This may be called the age of peregrination; for we have reason to believe, that the desire of seeing foreign countries never before so diffusively operated.” Britons traveled around the globe with many motives: exploration, trade, diplomacy, scientific curiosity, and tourism (first practiced in this period). Curious about the wider world and Britain's expanding empire, readers devoured travel writing, then a highly respected literary genre. Travel writers strove to define British identity in relation to other cultures, familiar as well as exotic, wrestling in the process with important philosophical, scientific and political issues. Other genres, including the novel, also thematized travel and inter-cultural encounter. We'll read a broad selection of travel writing and two fictional narratives, analyzing their formal features and the rhetorical strategies they bring to bear on controversial questions of the “global eighteenth century.”

**TEXTS:** Bohls and Duncan, ed., *Travel Writing 1700-1830* (Oxford); Johnson and Boswell, *A Journey to the Western Islands of Scotland and the Journal of a Tour to the Hebrides* (Penguin); Johnson, *The History of Rasselas, Prince of Abissinia* (Broadview); Sterne, *A Sentimental Journey* (Broadview); Park, *Travels in the Interior Districts of Africa* (Duke); Wollstonecraft, *Letters Written in Sweden, Norway, and Denmark* (Oxford).

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** by the end of the term, students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate understanding of late 18th century British literature in its historical and cultural contexts
2. Perform a focused formal analysis of an eighteenth-century narrative, attending to its conventions and rhetorical strategies
3. Research and write a critical analysis of a late 18th-century narrative, drawing on primary and secondary sources

**REQUIREMENTS:** The most important requirement is to keep up with the reading. Read carefully, take notes, and come to class ready for discussion; I will give unannounced reading quizzes, which **cannot be made up**. Three students per week will be responsible for posting questions and topics for the week's reading on Blackboard by Monday at 6 p.m. Written assignments include five short papers of two pages each, focused on specific readings, and a 12-page research paper, using at least six primary and/or secondary sources to contextualize an analysis of one or more course texts.

### GRADE BREAKDOWN:

Blackboard postings, 10%  
Short papers (2 pages minimum), 10% each = 50%  
Research paper (12 pages minimum), 25%  
Attendance, participation, and quizzes, 15%

**Late policy:** I accept one late paper per term; use this option wisely! “On time” means 10 a.m. on the due date. A late paper is due at the next class meeting following the due date, at 10 a.m. If you take this option for your research paper, it is due Friday, June 13, at 10 a.m. Papers handed in after the specified time will be graded down. **PLAGIARISM WILL RESULT IN AN AUTOMATIC “F” FOR THE COURSE.**

## SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS

### BRITISH ISLES

- April 3 Bohls & Duncan Introduction (xii-xxvii), 96 – 141  
8 Bohls & Duncan 141 – 180, Johnson, *Journey* 35 – 70 and 161 – 166 (Boswell)  
10 Johnson, *Journey* 70 - 119  
15 Johnson, *Journey* 119 – 152. **Paper 1 due.**

### EUROPE

- 17 Bohls & Duncan 3 - 40  
22 Sterne 57 – 116 (Vol. I)  
24 Sterne 116 – 176 (finish)  
29 Bohls & Duncan 40 – 68. **Paper 2 due.**  
May 1 Wollstonecraft 3 – 67  
6 Wollstonecraft 68 – 132 (finish).

### AUSTRALIA AND THE PACIFIC

- 8 Bohls & Duncan 421 – 494. **Paper 3 due.**

### AFRICA

- 13 Bohls & Duncan 220-227, *Rasselas* 43-69 and 139-142 (Lobo)  
15 *Rasselas* 70 – 100. **Research paper abstract due.**  
20 *Rasselas* 100 – 137. **Paper 4 due.**  
22 Bohls & Duncan 181 – 220, 237 – 256  
27 Park 67 - 157  
29 Park 157 - 227  
June 3 Park 227 - 313 (finish). **Paper 5 due.**

### NORTH AMERICA

- 5 Bohls & Duncan 334 - 389

**RESEARCH PAPER DUE WED. JUNE 11, 10 A.M.**

