

English 448
MWF 2:00 – 2:50
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Professor E. Bohls
527 PLC
MW 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.” British travelers journeyed worldwide, pursuing exploration, trade, diplomacy, scientific curiosity, and tourism. British readers, curious about the wider world and Britain's expanding empire, devoured travel writing, which was then a highly respected literary genre. Travel writers strove to define British identity in relation to other cultures, familiar as well as exotic. In the process they confronted important philosophical, scientific, and political issues. Other genres, including the novel, also addressed themes of 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 use to approach 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 a late 18th-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. Written assignments include a reading journal, which I'll collect periodically (unannounced); this can be kept in hard copy or electronic form, whichever you prefer. Other assignments include 4 short papers of two pages each, focused on specific readings; an assignment in response to our visit to Knight Library's Special Collections; 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:

Reading journal (750 words/week) = 15%
Short papers (2 pages minimum), 10% each = 40%
Research paper (12 pages minimum), 35%
Attendance and participation = 10%

Late policy: I accept one late paper per term; use this option wisely! “On time” means 2 p.m. on the due date. A late paper is due at the next class meeting following the due date, at 2 p.m. If you take this option for your research paper, it is due Friday, March 20, at 5 p.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

- Jan. 7 Bohls & Duncan Introduction (xii-xxvii), 96 – 141 (British Isles)
9 Bohls & Duncan 141 – 180 (Scotland)
12 Johnson, *Journey* 35 – 70 and 161 – 166 (Boswell)
14 Johnson, *Journey* 70 - 119
16 Johnson, *Journey* 119 – 152.
19 **MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY—NO CLASS**
21 **Paper 1 due.**

EUROPE

- 23 Bohls & Duncan 3 – 40 (Grand Tour)
26 Sterne 57 – 116 (Vol. I)
28 Sterne 116 – 176 (finish)
30 **Paper 2 due.**
Feb. 2 Bohls & Duncan 40 – 68 (Revolutionary tourism)
4 Wollstonecraft 3 – 67
6 Wollstonecraft 68 – 132 (finish).
9 **Paper 3 due.**

AUSTRALIA & THE PACIFIC

- 11 Bohls & Duncan 421 – 465 (Pacific)
13 **NO CLASS**
16 Bohls & Duncan 465 – 494 (Australia).

AFRICA

- 18 Bohls & Duncan 181 – 220 (Slave trade). **Paper 4 due.**
20 Bohls & Duncan 220-227, 237 – 256 (Africa exploration)
23 "
25 **Special Collections visit.**
27 Park 67 – 157.
Mar 2 Park 157 – 227. **Research Paper abstract due.**
4 Park 227 - 313 (finish).
6 "
9 *Rasselas* 43-69 and 139-142 (Father Lobo)
11 *Rasselas* 70 – 100.
13 *Rasselas* 100 – 137.

RESEARCH PAPER DUE THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 3 P.M.

