

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

Professor E. Bohls  
527 PLC  
T 12–1:30, W 1:30-3

## 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 circled the globe, pursuing exploration, trade, diplomacy, scientific curiosity, and tourism. British readers were deeply curious about the wider world and the expanding British Empire. Travel writing was a respected literary genre and a profitable category in the print market. Travel writers strove to define British identity in relation to other cultures, both familiar and exotic, confronting important philosophical, scientific, and political issues. Fictional genres also took up themes of travel and inter-cultural encounter. We’ll read a selection of travel writing and two fictional narratives, analyzing their formal features and rhetorical strategies as they approach controversial questions of the “global 18th century.”

**TEXTS:** Bohls and Duncan, ed., *Travel Writing 1700-1830* (Oxford); Samuel 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). Supplemental readings on Canvas. **[DON'T BUY JOHNSON, JOURNEY TO SCOTLAND]**

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

1. Demonstrate understanding of late-18th-C British literature in its historical and cultural contexts.
2. Perform a focused formal analysis of a late-18th-C narrative, attending to its conventions and rhetorical strategies.
3. Research and write a critical analysis of a late-18th-C 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 3 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 with an annotated bibliography, 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) = 10%  
Short papers (2 pages minimum), 10% each = 30%  
Special Collections assignment = 5%  
Annotated bibliography = 10%  
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 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, March 18, at 3 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

### EUROPE

- Jan. 5 Course introduction  
7 Bohls & Duncan Introduction (xii-xxvii), 3 - 40 (Grand Tour)  
12 Sterne 57 - 116 (Vol. I)  
14 Sterne 116 - 176 (finish). **Paper 1 due.**  
19 Wollstonecraft 3 - 67  
21 Wollstonecraft 68 - 132 (finish).

### AFRICA

- 26 Bohls & Duncan 181 - 220 (Slave trade). **Special Collections visit.**  
28 Bohls & Duncan 220 - 227, 237 - 256 (Africa exploration)  
Feb. 2 Park 67 - 157. **Special Collections assignment due.**  
4 Park 157 - 227.  
9 Park 227 - 313 (finish). **Paper 2 due.**  
11 *Rasselas* 43-69 and 139-142 (Father Lobo)  
16 *Rasselas* 70 - 100.  
18 *Rasselas* 100 - 137. **Paper 3 due.**

### THE PACIFIC

- 23 Bohls & Duncan 421 - 465 (Pacific)  
25 Harriet Guest, "Curiously Marked" (Canvas). **Research Paper abstract due.**

### NORTH & SOUTH AMERICA

- Mar 1 Humboldt, *Personal Narrative*, selections (Canvas)  
Mar. 2 (W) Christopher Iannini lecture, Knight Library (extra credit)  
3 Audubon, selections (Canvas). **Annotated bibliography due.**  
8 Bohls & Duncan 334-389 (North America exploration)  
10 Wrap-up

**RESEARCH PAPER DUE WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 3 P.M.**

