English 321: The Rise of the English Novel
CRN 32531 Spring 2011 1100-1150  MWF 301 GER

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Office Hours: M W 12:30-2:30 & by appointment

**Required Texts**
*Pamela*, by Samuel Richardson (Penguin)
*Shamela and Joseph Andrews*, by Henry Fielding (Penguin)
*The Castle of Otranto*, by Horace Walpole (Penguin)
*Sentimental Journey*, by Laurence Sterne (Penguin)
*Northanger Abbey*, by Jane Austen (Penguin)

The works of fiction, with which the present generation seems more particularly delighted, are such as exhibit life in its true state, diversified only by accidents that daily happen in the world, and influenced by passions and qualities which are really to be found in conversing with mankind.

Samuel Johnson, *The Rambler*, 1750

This course provides an overview of the emergence of the novel in the eighteenth century. We will read texts that represent the era's major types of novel—including the picaresque, the comic, the epistolary, the gothic, and the novel of sensibility—and supplement those works with readings available on Blackboard. Additionally, we will read about and discuss how the period's cultural factors both aided the novel's birth and helped to elevate it as a popular literary genre. No prerequisites are required, but students should be capable of advanced university-level work in literary studies. As part of an extensive survey of major fictional works, English 321 satisfies the university's Group Requirement in the Arts and Letters category. The reading load in this course is heavy (especially early in the term), so plan to read every day. If you fall very far behind, please come see me, and we can talk about how you might catch up.

**Assignments and Grading**
**Two Short Essays** (3-5 pages, 15% each). Each essay should be a close reading of a text. I will post additional details on these papers on Blackboard.

**One longer essay** (5-7 pages, 20%). This essay can compare the same idea in two texts or it can be a discussion of a novel and one element of its historical background. I will post additional details on this paper on Blackboard.

*Note:* Grading criteria and formatting instructions for essays are located on Blackboard. Papers are due by the date given on the assignment schedule. Late papers will be graded down by one full letter-grade per calendar day they are late unless you have made prior arrangements with me.

**The Final Examination** (20%) is comprehensive and will cover the texts we read and the critical, lecture materials, and terms we cover. It will consist of multiple choice and fill-in-the-blank questions, and it will include an essay portion. Our final examination will occur at 10:15 Tuesday, June 7th. Make-up exams will be given only in the case of a documented medical condition or university obligation. University policy prohibits giving make up exams before the scheduled exam time.

**Quizzes** (10%) Once a week, there will be an unannounced quiz at the beginning of class. If you arrive late to class, or if you are absent that day without notifying me in advance, you cannot make up the quiz.
Reading / Discussion Questions (10% total, or 2% each) Over the course of the term, you should post to Blackboard five thoughtful, well-considered reading questions that engage with specific issues in five different passages in our texts. You choose the texts and when to post your questions; however, each post must address a current reading assignment (e.g., in week seven you should not post a question regarding Moll Flanders). You may not post numerous questions on the same assignment. Each of your questions should engage with a specific passage, and you should provide context for your query: preface your question with an excerpt that you find particularly intriguing, compelling, or troublesome. Your question should be specific, and you should be prepared to address your question during class discussions. Note: to ensure variety, and to avoid repetition, scroll through those questions posted by your colleagues prior to posting your own. Whichever assigned reading you focus on, please post your question by 9:00 pm the night before that reading is due.

Participation (10%) There will be some lecture, but you should expect a substantial amount of discussion. Some conversation will be class-wide, but you should expect small group exchanges as well. Keep in mind that your contributions not only keep class interesting, but also that our discussions can help generate ideas for paper topics.

Attendance Your regular attendance is vital to the goals of this course. You may miss three class meetings without penalty. Your final grade will drop one-third of a letter grade for each subsequent absence, unless you have contacted me and we have agreed on alternative arrangements. You are still responsible for submitting your work on time, despite absence. Missed work cannot be made up except by prior arrangement. Three occasions of tardiness/leaving early equals a day’s absence. Coming to class without the relevant text qualifies as an absence.

Submitting work Please submit hard copies during class or in my office, 213 PLC. You should not leave your materials outside of my office, nor should you ask someone in the English department to put your materials in my mailbox. You are welcome to email your work to me as long as it is a MS Word or .pdf document. Whether submitted electronically or as hard copies, out-of-class assignments will be graded down by one full letter-grade per calendar day they are late unless you have made prior arrangements with me.

Blackboard Please check Blackboard often. I will regularly post class updates, assignment details, general announcements, and links to online resources that you might find useful. If you cannot access Blackboard to locate assignment details, please contact me immediately so that I can discuss the assignment with you. It is your responsibility to contact me.

Communication If, for any reason, you anticipate or encounter issues that might interfere with your performance in this class, please speak with me as soon as possible. It is your responsibility to contact me if a problem arises, or if you foresee a problem arising, so that we can discuss ways to help you succeed in this course. I encourage you to drop in during office hours to talk about your works in progress or other class-related issues; if you cannot make my posted office hours, please contact me to arrange an appointment.

Incomplete Policy No incompletes will be granted, except in case of documented emergency. If you are forced to take an Incomplete, then, effective Winter term 2005, undergraduate students have one calendar year to make up an incomplete mark assigned by a UO faculty member. Failure to make up the Incomplete at the end of one calendar year will result in the mark of "I" automatically changing to a grade of "F" or "N."
Accommodations If you have a documented disability and require accommodations in this course, please speak with me as soon as possible. Please request that the Counselor for Students with Disabilities send a letter verifying your disability.

Inclement Weather If inclement weather prevents our class meeting, I will notify you via Blackboard and email no later than 7:00 am on the day of class.

Academic Honesty All work submitted in this course must be your own and be written exclusively for this course. The use of sources (ideas, quotations, paraphrases) must be properly documented. Please consult Rules for Writers or the University of Oregon Libraries website <http://www.libweb.uoregon.edu/guides/plagiarism/students/ > for a definition of plagiarism and information on documentation, and refer to the Student Conduct Code on the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards website. In cases where academic dishonesty has been clearly established, the award of an F for the final course grade is the standard practice of the English Department. Please see me if you have any questions about your use of sources.

Reading and Assignment Schedule

Week One
M 3/28 Introductions; syllabus; background
   For Wednesday, read Johnson (on Blackboard), Defoe, 3-49 (to “I was never to have him”). Terms:
   Genre, Romance
W 3/30 Moll Flanders
   For Friday read Defoe, 49-103 (to “at least not in London”), Kirkman (290-96), text of the Transportation Act (Blackboard) Terms: Realism, Realistic novel, Picaresque novel
F 4/1 Moll Flanders
   For Monday read 103-64 (to “Sharp indeed if they can prevent it”), “The Benefits of Transportation” (275-76), and Bell (403-37),

Week Two
M 4/4 Moll Flanders
   For Wednesday read 164-209 (to “away I walk’d into the street”), Backscheider (460-71)
W 4/6 Moll Flanders
   For Friday, read 209-66.
F 4/8 Moll Flanders
   For Monday read Richardson. “Introduction” and letters 1 to 20. Term:
   Epistolary novel

Week Three
M 4/11 Pamela
   For Wednesday read letters 21-29
W 4/13 Pamela
   For Friday read letters to the end of Volume I
F 4/15 Pamela Paper #1 Due
   For Monday read in volume II, letters 1 to 30, Warner (Blackboard)

Week Four
M 4/18 Pamela
   For Wednesday Read letters 31-60
W 4/20 Pamela
For Friday, read letters 61-92; Zimmerman (in Norton 349-68)
F 4/22 Pamela
   For Monday, begin Fielding: “Introduction”; 45-118 (Book One) “Political and Religious Background,”
   “An Essay on the Knowledge of the Characters of Men” (Blackboard) Terms: Satire, Parody

Week Five
M 4/25 Joseph Andrews
   For Wednesday read 119-162, McCrea (Blackboard)
W 4/27 Joseph Andrews
   For Friday read 163-199 (end of Book Two)
F 4/29 Joseph Andrews
   For Monday read 201-74 (End of Book Three)

Week Six
M 5/2 Joseph Andrews,
   For Wednesday read 275-300
W 5/4 Joseph Andrews
   For Friday, 301-34 (end of Book Four)
F 5/6 Joseph Andrews Paper # 2 due
   For Monday, read Sterne, “Introduction,” 5-60. Terms: Sensibility, Sentimentalism, Sentimental Novel

Week Seven
M 5/9 A Sentimental Journey
   For Wednesday read 61-90, Brewer (Blackboard)
W 5/11 A Sentimental Journey
   For Friday, complete Sterne 91-118
F 5/13 A Sentimental Journey
   Term: Gothic Literature, Sublime

Week Eight
M 5/16 The Castle of Otranto
   For Wednesday read 54-86
W 5/18 The Castle of Otranto
   For Friday read 87-100
F 5/20 The Castle of Otranto
   For Monday, begin Austen. Introduction, 15-78

Week Nine
M 5/23 Northanger Abbey
   For Wednesday read 79-end of volume one
W 5/25 Northanger Abbey
   For Thursday read 123-162
F 5/27 Northanger Abbey Paper # 3 due
   For Wednesday read 163-the end.

Week Ten
M 5/30 No class: Memorial Day
W 6/1 Northanger Abbey
   For Friday, complete Austen
F 6/3 Northanger Abbey

Final Exam: 10:15 Tuesday, June 7th