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, as well as a very profitable sector of the print market. Travel writers strove to define British identity in relation to other cultures, both familiar and exotic, dealing with 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); Sterne, A Sentimental Journey (Broadview); Wollstonecraft, Letters Written in Sweden, Norway, and Denmark (Oxford); Park, Travels in the Interior Districts of Africa (Duke); Samuel Johnson, The History of Rasselas, Prince of Abissinia (Broadview). Supplemental reading posted on Canvas and videos on YouTube.

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 2 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 a critical analysis of one or more travel texts.

GRADE BREAKDOWN:
Reading journal (750 words/week) = 10%
Short papers (2 pages minimum), 10% each = 20%
Special Collections assignment = 10%
Annotated bibliography = 10%
Research paper (12 pages minimum), 40%
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. You may not take this option for your research paper (it is already due at the last possible minute). 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. 11  Bohls & Duncan Introduction (xii-xxvii), 3 - 40 (Grand Tour)
16    Watch Sterne video (7:52)
      https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G0_qt4_XeYk
      Read Sterne 57 – 116 (Vol. I)
18    Listen Sterne 1954 radio play (29:12)
      https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WOM7ci_ZPyY
      Read Sterne 116 – 176 (finish).
23    Paper 1 due.
25    Watch Wollstonecraft video (6:15)
      https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=repChxNOtw0
      Read Wollstonecraft 1 – 67 (Letters I – X)
30    Read Wollstonecraft 68 – 132 (finish).
Feb. 1  Paper 2 due.

THE PACIFIC
Feb. 6    Read Bohls & Duncan 421 – 440 (Pacific); N. Thomas, Discoveries, intro (selection);
          Haunani-Kay Trask, "Cultures in Collision: Hawai‘I and England, 1778" (Canvas)
8    Watch Crash Course Captain Cook (10:32)
      https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2yXNrLTddME
      Watch Comedy Central Drunk History Death of Cook (2:54)
      https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7da0LxBwqU4
      Read Bohls & Duncan 440-465 (Cook); N. Thomas, Discoveries, Ch. 21 (Canvas)
13    Read Harriet Guest, "Curiously Marked" (Canvas).
15    Special Collections visit

AFRICA
20    Read Bohls & Duncan 220 - 227, 237 – 256 (Africa exploration)
      Special Collections assignment due.
22    Watch Crash Course Atlantic Slave Trade (11:07)
      https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dnV_MTFEGIY
      Read Park 67 – 157
27    Read Park 157 – 227.
6    Watch 3 short Samuel Johnson videos (2:14, 2:00, 1:46)
      https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S_jtbYjKyus
      https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K5-_anHteMU
      https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hOSYIT2iG08
      Read Rasselas 43-69 and Father Lobo (Appendix A, 139-142).
8    Read Rasselas 70 – 100. Annotated bibliography due.
13    Read Rasselas 100 – 137 and Rambler No. 4 (Appendix A, 153-158)
15    Wrap-up RESEARCH PAPER DUE FRIDAY, MARCH 23, 10 A.M.