Passion and Sentiment in Enlightenment Thought and Literature

This course invites you to study a number of familiar eighteenth-century texts in relation to wider intellectual, and especially philosophical, contexts. It aims to chart some of the most important of the changing moral concerns of the period. Reading for each seminar is divided below into required primary texts and suggested secondary ones.

Seminar One: Benevolence and Egotism

Primary

- James Thomson, ‘Summer’ and ‘Autumn’, in his *The Seasons* (1744 edn)

- You may also find helpful Alexander Pope, *Moral Essays: Epistle I. To Richard Temple, Viscount Cobham* (1733-4)

Secondary

- David Fairer (ed.), *Pope: New Contexts* (Hemel Hempstead, 1990)
- Tim Fulford, *Landscape, Liberty and Authority: Poetry, Criticism and Politics from Thomson to Wordsworth* (Cambridge, 1996) [for Thomson]
Seminar Two: Politeness and Humour

Primary

- Anthony Ashley Cooper, 3rd Earl of Shaftesbury, ‘Sensus Communis’, and ‘Soliloquy’ Part I Section 1-2, Part III Section 1-2, all in his Characteristics of Men, Manners, Opinions, Times (1711).
- Francis Hutcheson, ‘Reflections upon Laughter’ (1725-6), most conveniently available in his Philosophical Writings, ed. R. S. Downie (London, 1994), pp. 45-63.
- Jonathan Swift, A Tale of a Tub (1704)
- Alexander Pope, The Rape of the Lock (1714 edn)

You may also find helpful John Gay, Trivia: or, The Art of Walking the Streets of London (1716) and Joseph Addison, The Spectator (1711-1714), nos 9, 16, 23, 45, 57, 81, 231

Secondary

- Michael V. DePorte, Nightmares and Hobbyhorses: Swift, Sterne, and Augustan Ideas of Madness (San Marino, 1974)
- David Fairer, Pope’s Imagination (Manchester, 1984)
- Jurgen Habermas, The Structural Transformation of the Public Sphere: An Inquiry into a Category of Bourgeois Society, tr. Thomas Burger (Cambridge, 1992)
- Philip Harth, Swift and Anglican Rationalism: The Religious Background of A Tale of a Tub (Chicago, 1961)
- John G. Hayman, ‘Shaftesbury and the Search for a Persona’, Studies in English Literature, 1500-1900, 10 (1970), 491-504
- Peter Lewis and Nigel Wood (eds), John Gay and the Scriblerians (London, 1988)
- Ellen Pollak, The Poetics of Sexual Myth: Gender and Ideology in the Verse of Swift and Pope (Chicago, 1985)
- Valerie Rumbold, Women’s Place in Pope’s World (Cambridge, 1989)
- Stuart Tave, The Amiable Humorist: A Study in the Comic Theory and Criticism of the Eighteenth and Early Nineteenth Centuries (Chicago, 1960)
- Christopher Tilmouth, ‘Sceptical Perspectives on Melancholy: Burton, Swift, Pope, Sterne’, The Review of English Studies [available online via advance access]
- David Womersley, Paddy Bullard, and Abigail Williams (eds), “Cultures of Whiggism”: New Essays on English Literature and Culture in the Long Eighteenth Century (Newark, Delaware, 2005) [for Addison]
Seminar Three: Moral Sense and Moral Sentiment

**Primary**
- *Either* David Hume, ‘Section II’, ‘Sections V to IX’, in his *An Enquiry Concerning the Principles of Morals* (1751)

**Secondary**
- Ryan Hanley, *Adam Smith and the Character of Virtue* (Cambridge, 2009)
- Robert Crawford (ed.), *The Scottish Invention of English Literature* (Cambridge 1998)
- Ildiko Csengei, *Sympathy, Sensibility and the Literature of Feeling in the Eighteenth Century* (Basingstoke, 2012) [on Smith and Mackenzie]
- John Dwyer and Richard B. Sher (eds), *Sociability and Society in Eighteenth-Century Scotland* (Edinburgh, 1993)
- John Dwyer, *The Age of the Passions: An Interpretation of Adam Smith and Scottish Enlightenment Culture* (East Linton, 1998)
- Mike Hill and Warren Montag, *The Other Adam Smith* (Stanford, 2015)
Melvyn New (ed.), *Critical Essays on Laurence Sterne* (New York, 1998), esp. the essay by Wehrs

David Fate Norton, *David Hume: Common-Sense Moralist, Sceptical Metaphysician* (Princeton, 1982)


Seminar Four: Primitive Humanity, Authentic Passions

**Primary**


Mary Wollstonecraft, Chapters 1 to 4, 6, 9, 13.2 & 13.6 in her *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*

**Secondary**


S. T. Coleridge, *Biographia Literaria* [on Wordworth’s *Lyrical Ballads*]

Thomas Curley, *Samuel Johnson, the Ossian Fraud, and the Celtic Revival in Great Britain and Ireland* (Cambridge, 2009)

Leith Davis et al. (eds), *Scotland and the Borders of Romanticism* (Cambridge, 2004), chap. 2
o Howard Gaskill (ed.), *Ossian Revisited* (Edinburgh, 1991)
o Heather Glen, *Vision and Disenchantment: Blake’s ‘Songs’ and Wordsworth’s ‘Lyrical Ballads’* (Cambridge, 1983)
o Adam Potkay, *Wordsworth’s Ethics* (Baltimore, 2012)
o Fiona Stafford and Howard Gaskill (eds). *From Gaelic to Romantic: Ossianic Translations* (Amsterdam, 1998)
o Nancy Yousef, *Romantic Intimacy* (Stanford, 2013)