Spring 1-15-2005

ENG 5004-001: Sex and Sexuality in the Age of Enlightenment

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English 5004: Sex and Sexuality in the Age of Enlightenment

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Phone: 581-6290

Spring 2005 Office Hours:
M 11-12, 5:30-6:30; W 9-10;
and by appointment

Required Texts
Cleland, John. *Fanny Hill; or Memoirs of a Woman of Pleasure*, Random House
Damrosch, David, ed. *Longman Anthology of British Literature, Vol. 1C: Restoration and
Eighteenth Century*, 2nd ed., Longman
Fielding, Henry. *Joseph Andrews and Shamela*
Foucault, Michel. *The History of Sexuality*, Vintage
Inchbald, Elizabeth. *A Simple Story*, World's Classics
Lillo, George. *The London Merchant*, U of Nebraska P
Richardson, Samuel. *Pamela; or, Virtue Rewarded*, Penguin Classics

* Additional readings and handouts to be provided through library reserve or photocopy

Course Description
An era of vibrant intellectual, economic, and political foment throughout Europe, the "age of Enlightenment" roughly coincided with the eighteenth century and saw radical changes in science, philosophy, education, economics, and politics that shaped—and continue to shape—Western culture. Focusing on the British context, we will consider two specific and closely related sites of such cultural change: "Sex" and sexuality. One part of our reading will consist of Enlightenment novels, poems, plays, philosophical tracts, and other cultural narratives raising questions about the "Sexes" and/or sexual orientation, the other part of contemporary critical and theoretical accounts of gender/sexuality by thinkers as diverse as Thomas Laqueur, Nancy Armstrong, Gayle Rubin, Michel Foucault, and Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick. Our goals this semester will be 1) to historicize Enlightenment constructions of "Sex" and sexuality through a discussion of them within various discursive contexts—race and nation, domesticity, status, and sensibility, to name a few; and 2) to problematize models of gender and desire, past and present, through an engagement with cultural criticism and theory.

Course Requirements
Weekly Agendas: you will prepare a talking point or "agenda" each week (excluding weeks nine and fifteen, and another of your choice).

Guidelines for Agendas
* Refer to a specific passage or section of the reading for the week, quoting the first line (or more) and listing the page number(s).
* Use the passage or section as the basis for formulating a broader discussion topic, being sure to jot down your idea for a "talking point" and/or a pointed question.
* Submit the agenda to me no later than 2 p.m. on Monday, preferably by e-mail.

Reviews: on two occasions, you will find a work of literary/cultural criticism about a text listed in the readings and review it for the class.

Guidelines for Review
* Pick a scheduled reading that interests you and find a recent piece of criticism on it, one less than fifteen years old.
* About a week before the reading appears in the schedule, submit a copy of the article or book chapter to me for approval.
* Create a handout. At the top of the page, place an MLA-style citation of the article or book chapter. Below, write a one- to two-page synopsis of it. Make copies for the class.
* Come to class prepared to explain and evaluate the critical argument. The discussion should last for ten to fifteen minutes.
* Complete the first review no later than February 14, the second no later than April 18.
* Do not review the same piece of criticism as another member of the class.

**Research Project Proposal:** the proposal will consist of two parts, a three- to four-page narrative in which you outline your proposed project and explain your preliminary research results, and an annotated bibliography listing eight or more sources relevant to your project. These sources must come from outside the course readings.

**Presentation:** you will describe your research project, explain your main line of argument, and field questions. The presentation should last approximately twenty minutes.

**Research Project:** you will write a twelve to fifteen-page scholarly essay on a text from the long eighteenth century. The essay should put forth a sophisticated argument, one giving consideration to recent criticism on the text and showing an understanding of the literary and cultural contexts in which the text was produced. Eight sources are required.

**Participation:** in a graduate seminar, good citizenship involves careful preparation of the reading; measured contributions to discussions; and engaged critical thought, among other things. You should come to class brimming with observations, questions, and insights—and ready to take part in an ongoing dialogue about the course materials and your projects.

**Policies**

**Attendance:** you should not miss class. If you must miss class, you should give a full account in writing and provide documentation. Unexcused absences could result in a lower grade for the semester.

**Late work:** weekly agendas and reviews will not be accepted late. I will consider accepting a paper late—if truly extenuating circumstances have been explained to me in writing prior to the due date.

**Final Grades** will be calculated on a ten-point scale (i.e., 100 to 90 = A, 89.9 to 80 = B, etc.) according to the following formula:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weekly Agendas x 10</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Review x 2</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Project Proposal</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentation</td>
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<td>Research Project</td>
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<td>Participation</td>
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**Academic Dishonesty:** Submit only original work in this class and, for each assignment, document all sources according to MLA style. All instances of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Office of Judicial Affairs.

**The Office of Disability Services:** If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Office of Disability Services (581-6583).
Provisional Schedule
(reading schedule subject to emendation)

Week One
M Jan 10  Introduction to Course
Overview of syllabus and requirements
Kant, “What is Enlightenment?,” 1784
Voltaire, excerpt from Philosophical Dictionary, 1852
Wright, An Experiment on a Bird in the Air Pump
Laroon, Charles II as President of the Royal Society (color plates following Longman 2070; Longman hereafter abbreviated L)

Week Two
M Jan 17  MLK birthday; no class

Week Three
M Jan 24  Cultural History of Sexuality
Laqueur, “Of Language and the Flesh,” from Making Sex (1-24; provided)
Rochester, “Song” (L 2280)
Behn, “To the Fair Clarinda, Who Made Love to Me, Imagined More than Woman” (L 2223)

Gender and Enlightenment
Nussbaum, “Whose Enlightenment Is It?,” from Torrid Zones (192-210; provided)
Addison, Spectator No. 1 [Introducing Mr. Spectator] (L 2400-2)
Haywood, Female Spectator [The Author’s Intent] (L 2402-4)
Chudleigh, “To the Ladies” (L 2224-5)
Mary Leapor, “An Essay on Woman” (L 2232-3)
Haywood, Female Spectator [Women’s Education] (L 2435-6)

Week Four
M Jan 31  Gender, Sexuality, and Race
Rochester, “A Satyr against Reason and Mankind” (L 2283-88)
Behn, Oroonoko, or The Royal Slave (L 2236-77)
Wheeler, “The Empire of Climate: Categories of Race in Eighteenth Century Britain,” from The Complexion of Race: Categories of Difference in Eighteenth-Century British Culture (1-6; provided)

Week Five
M Feb 7  Visual Culture
Gay, The Beggar’s Opera (L 2588-32)
Hogarth, The Harlot’s Progress, Marriage A-la-Mode (provided)
Rubin, “The Traffic in Women: Notes on the ‘Political Economy’ of Sex” (provided)

Week Six
M Feb 14  Lillo, The London Merchant (all)
Hogarth, Industry and Idleness (provided)
First review due no later than this date
Conferences concerning research project proposal
Week Seven
M Feb 21  Sexual Politics and the Novel
Richardson, from *Pamela* (43-97, 200-48, 265-78)
Selection from a conduct cook (TBA; provided)
Armstrong, “The Rise of the Domestic Woman,” from * Desire and Domestic Fiction* (59-75; provided)

Week Eight
M Feb 28  Richardson, from *Pamela* (357-79, 400-25, 477-88)
Armstrong, “Strategies of Self-Production,” from *Desire and Domestic Fiction* (108-34; provided)
Fielding, *Shamela* (in *Joseph Andrews and Shamela*)

Week Nine  (no weekly agendas)
M Mar 7  Due: research project proposal

Spring Recess
M Mar 14  No class

Week Ten
M Mar 21  Foucault, *The History of Sexuality* (3-73)

Week Eleven
M Mar 28  Cleland, *Fanny Hill; or Memoirs of a Woman of Pleasure* (Vol. I, 3-103)
Sedgwick, from *Between Men* (provided)

Week Twelve
M Apr 4  Cleland, *Fanny Hill; or Memoirs of a Woman of Pleasure* (Vol. II, 104-213)
Smith, “How Fanny Comes to Know” (provided)

Week Thirteen
M Apr 11  Inchbald, *A Simple Story*
Additional reading TBA

Week Fourteen
M Apr 18  Inchbald, *A Simple Story*
Additional reading TBA
Second review due no later than this date

Week Fifteen  (no weekly agendas)
M Apr 25  Due: research project
Presentations