

SSubject: **LITERATURA ANGLESA SEGLES XVII I XVIII**

Code: 28476

Credits: 6

Semester: 2

Groups: 1

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF SUBJECT

This course will examine in detail some key texts of two cultural periods: the late English Renaissance (approx.1603-1660) and the English and European Enlightenment (late seventeenth and eighteenth centuries).

Our aim will be to concentrate on two main subjects:

- 1) The formulation of new forms of love and eroticism that consolidated in this period, and that have come to dominate western culture (or to circulate in it) until our own days.
- 2) The consolidation of the Enlightenment as the dominant paradigm of knowledge and culture, and the consolidation of notions of “culture” and of “knowledge” that have remained valid until today.

The interdisciplinary nature of our approach will involve the discussion of musical and visual (as well as literary) material. A main emphasis in the course will be the continuity between seventeenth-eighteenth century paradigms of eroticism and culture and our own approaches to these areas of experience; the students are expected not only to read the texts and the corresponding bibliographies, but to be able to establish connections and links between the texts that we will read and present-day culture.

SYLLABUS:

The main texts that will be discussed will include John Donne’s poetry and *Biathanatos*, George Herbert’s *The Temple*, John Milton’s *Paradise Lost* Books IV-VIII, Aphra Behn’s *Ooronokoo*, selections from the *Encyclopaedia*, Jonathan Swift’s *Guliver’s Travel to Laputa*, Voltaire’s *Candide*, Henry Fielding’s *Joseph Andrews*, plus a selection of English women poets.

OBJECTIVES:

To show the transformations of the concepts of “love/eroticism” and “culture/knowledge” in the literature of the late Renaissance and the Enlightenment, and to trace the continuity between these concepts and the forms they have taken in our own culture at the end of the 20th and beginning of the 21st century.

ASSESSMENT:

Class participation and assignments: 40%

Class presentation: 20%

Essay/Exam: 20%

BIBLIOGRAPHY/MATERIALS:

(A short selection of the huge bibliography available on the subject):

Cassirer, Ernest. *The Philosophy of the Enlightenment*. Princeton University Press, 1998.

Corns, Thomas N. *The Cambridge Companion to English Poetry, Donne to Marvell*. Cambridge University Press, 1993.

Corns, Thomas N. *The Blackwell Companion to John Milton*. Blackwell, 2002.

Gay, Peter, *The Enlightenment: The Rise of Modern Paganism*. Norton, 1995.

Harvey, Karen. *Reading Sex in the Eighteenth Century: Bodies and Gender in English Erotic Culture*. Cambridge University Press, 2005.

Israel, Jonathan. *Radical Enlightenment and the Making of Modernity 1650-1750*. Oxford University Press, 2002.

Rawson, Claude. *Order From Confusion Sprung: Studies in Eighteenth-Century Literature, Swift to Cowper*. Humanity Books, 1992.

Richetti, John. *The Cambridge Companion to the Eighteenth Century Novel*. Cambridge University Press, 1996.

Schellenberg, Betty. *The Professionalization of Women Writers in Eighteenth Century Britain*. Cambridge, 2005.

Stephens, Dorothy. *The Limits of Eroticism in Post-Petrarchan Narrative: Conditional Pleasures from Spenser to Marvell*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998.

Turner, Cheryl. *Living by the Pen Women Writers in the Eighteenth Century*. Routledge, 1992.

Hunter, J. Paul. *Before Novels: The Cultural Contexts of Eighteenth-Century English Fiction*. Norton, 1990.

