Course Number: ENGL 618
Course Title: Readings in 18th-Century British Literature

Time: Thursday 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Instructor Details

Instructor: Susan Egenolf (she/her)

Course Description

ENGL 618—Readings in Eighteenth-Century British Literature.

This course will examine works written by British, Irish, Colonial and Indigenous authors (as well as some influential Continental writers) during the eighteenth century. The emphasis of the course will be on how these texts relate to each other and to their sociopolitical contexts. Our objective is to understand the historical, cultural and literary contexts in which these authors produced their works. The works we will be reading represent several genres—poetry, drama, novel, periodical, political treatise—and we'll be discussing the particular innovations in these genres during the eighteenth century. We will study visual and imperial culture during the period, attending to the ways that these writers and artists represented English and Continental cultures, as well as cultures of the Near East, the Pacific and the New World. The Industrial Revolution, the French and American Revolutions, the Irish rebellion and slavery and abolition will provide important contexts for the course. We will also attend to developments in contemporary scholarship concerned with the writings of the eighteenth century, focusing upon representations of race and gender, post-colonial and decolonial readings, aesthetics and ecological perspectives.

Readings may include Behn's *Oroonoko* (1688), Swift's *Gulliver's Travels* (1726), Gay's *The Beggar's Opera* (1728), Richardson's *Pamela* (1740), Walpole, *The Castle of Otranto* (1764), Winkfield's *The Female American* (1767), Equiano's *Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano* (1789), Samson Occom's autobiography, Wollstonecraft's *Vindication* and *Maria; or, The Wrongs of Woman* (1798). Earle's *Obi or, the History of Three-Fingered Jack* (1800), poetry of Burns, Barbauld, Charlotte Smith, Wordsworth and Coleridge.