

## English 141: The Eighteenth-Century Novel

Fall 2005, Tu. 2-4 + 1 hour TBA

CLASSROOM TBA

Office hours: Mon 3-5, Barker 271

[www.fas.harvard.edu/~english/courses/english141.html](http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~english/courses/english141.html)

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### REQUIREMENTS:

–Short **response papers** (1 ½-2 ½-pp., typed, double-spaced), due on the dates specified on the syllabus. Papers must be word-processed and handed in at the beginning of section (**no email submissions accepted**). Response papers may explore any aspect of the text that strikes you as interesting or puzzling, contrast the current week's text with one read earlier in the semester, choose a passage of the text to close-read, or raise questions that you would like to develop in a final paper or to discuss in class. They may also offer a pastiche or parody of the text or engage imaginatively with some aspect of the text's form or content. Because these papers are designed as warmup for discussion, they must examine the text being discussed in the week on which they are due (rather than the previous week's); for the same reason, **extensions will not be given on response papers except in the case of medical emergencies**. Response papers will not be individually graded, but may be used as a starting-point for discussion and will contribute to your grade for **section participation** (30%).

–**Midterm** exam (Nov. 8) plus (if necessary) occasional unannounced **reading quizzes** (25%)

–**9-12-pp. paper** (doublespaced), due Jan. 6 by 4PM (45%), together with a one-page **abstract** summarizing the argument of the paper. A final paper submitted late without advance permission will be penalized by 1/3 of a grade per day (e.g., a B+ paper becomes a B).

**WARNING!** Eighteenth-century novels are exceptionally gripping, thought-provoking, and playful; they are also exceptionally **LONG**. No previous coursework in the English department is required for the course (and interested freshmen as well as non-majors are welcome), but you should enroll only if you are prepared to keep up with the reading (an average of 250 pages per week) and with 2-pp. response papers due roughly every other week. Because this is a lecture-discussion class rather than a formal lecture course,

active and informed contribution to class discussion – both in the 2-hour meeting with Prof. Price and in weekly sections with Maia McAleavey – is expected from all students.

–My office hours are Mondays 3-5 in Barker 271; if you have class Monday afternoons, feel free to email me for an appointment at another time. All members of the class are encouraged to come to office hours at least once in the semester, either to discuss paper ideas, to follow up on questions raised in class, or simply to talk about any aspect of the novels that interests them.

–The teaching fellow for this course is Maia McAleavey, [mcaleav@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:mcaleav@fas.harvard.edu). You should plan on meeting with her as early in the semester as possible, and are also encouraged to consult with her about paper ideas toward the end of the course.

Novels ordered at the Co-op (please buy these editions unless you own another already):

Daniel Defoe, Robinson Crusoe (Norton) **ISBN: 0393964523**

Samuel Richardson, Pamela (Houghton Mifflin) **ISBN: 0395111528**

Henry Fielding, Tom Jones (Penguin) **ISBN: 0140430091**

Laurence Sterne, Tristram Shandy (Oxford UP) **ISBN: 0192834703**

Jane Austen, Northanger Abbey (Oxford UP) **ISBN: 0192840827**

**On the syllabus, readings marked with an asterisk (\*) are contained in the coursepack, for sale at Gnomon Copy (1304 Mass. Ave, next to Toscanini's.) The coursepack contains:**

Samuel Johnson, Rambler 4 (1750)

[Henry Fielding,] Shamela (1741)

Jane Austen, “Plan of a Novel”

from Ann Radcliffe, Romance of the Forest (1791)

## COURSE SCHEDULE:

9/20 Introduction [\[images\]](#)

\*\*\*Handout: definitions, debates and title-pages

\*\*\*Images: privacy, day-dreaming, and novel-reading

9/27 What is a novel? [\[images\]](#)

\*Samuel Johnson, Rambler 4, pp. 9-13

Defoe, Robinson Crusoe, pp. 1-40

Response paper due in section: Robinson Crusoe

10/4 Crusoe, complete [\[images\]](#)

section: Crusoe

10/11 Richardson, Pamela, vol. 1 (through p. 189) [\[images\]](#)

\*\*\*[Introductory material to Pamela: handout for anyone not using the Houghton-Mifflin edition]

\*\*\*Handout: Richardson (and his readers) on the epistolary novel

Response paper due in section: Pamela

10/18 Pamela, complete

Shamela

Section: Pamela and Shamela

10/25 Tom Jones, books 1-10 [\[images\]](#)

Response paper due in section: Tom Jones

11/1 Tom Jones, complete

Section: Tom Jones

11/8 Midterm

11/15 Tristram Shandy, vols. 1-2

Response paper due in section: Tristram Shandy

11/22 Class in Houghton Library [+screening of Tom Jones]

11/29 Class in Houghton Library

12/6 Tristram Shandy, complete

Northanger Abbey, chapter 1

\*\*\*handout: responses to Jane Austen

\*Austen, "Plan of a Novel"

section: Tristram Shandy

12/13 Northanger Abbey, vol. 1 [\[images\]](#)

\*\*\*from Ann Radcliffe, Romance of the Forest (1791)

response paper due in section: Northanger Abbey

12/20 Northanger Abbey, complete

\*\*\*handout: how to end a novel

**Requirements:** active and informed class participation; five response papers due at the beginning of section in the weeks indicated; midterm and occasional reading quizzes; 9-12-pp. paper, accompanied by 1-page abstract.

\* = reading in coursepack.

\*\*\* = handout