

VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON  
SCHOOL OF ENGLISH, FILM, THEATRE. AND MEDIA  
STUDIES  
ENGL 315: RESTORATION AND EIGHTEENTH-  
CENTURY LITERATURE



Houyhnhnm and Yahoo  
Louis Quintinalla  
Illustrator of Jaques Barzun's 1847 edition of *Gulliver's Travels*

**TRIMESTER TWO**

## COURSE OUTLINE

### COURSE ORGANISATION

#### Teaching staff

Prof. Robert Easting (Convener, lectures)	Von Zedlitz 901, tel. ext. 6803
A/Prof. Kathryn Walls (Convener, tutorials)	Von Zedlitz 916, tel. ext. 6898
A/Prof. Dr Heidi Thomson	Von Zedlitz 814, tel. ext. 6817

#### **Classes, times, and room number**

##### Lectures:

Two per week: in HMLT 104, on **Mondays and Wednesdays** 2.10-3.00 pm.

##### Readings:

Staff readings from set texts will be held on **Fridays** (HMLT 104, 2.10-3.00 pm. These low-key sessions (mostly reading, but with some brief contextualization) are incorporated to help students grasp the texts that are to be discussed in the week following.

##### Tutorials:

One per week: to be arranged during the first week of the course.

##### *Notes:*

You will need to fill in a tutorial slip at the first lecture.

Tutorial lists will be posted on the English notice board on Floor 3 of Hugh McKenzie on Thursday July 10.

Tutorials begin in the week commencing Monday July 14—please check the lists on the notice board before that date.

##### Information:

Any changes to the programme will be announced in lectures and posted on the English notice board (as above). They will also be posted on Blackboard. Students should check the Registry notice board in Kirk for the official examination timetable.

### **AIMS, OBJECTIVES, AND CONTENT**

#### **Course Aims**

To introduce students to a range of famous literary works from the late 17th and 18th centuries, excluding Milton and the novelists.

#### **Course Objectives**

Students successfully completing the course should have acquired some sense of the range and development of literature in the period 1660-1790 in its historical context; have read major works by the four major authors (John Dryden, Jonathan Swift, Alexander Pope, and Samuel Johnson), and some other contemporary works; and have developed an understanding of some of the genres and concerns characteristic of the period. Having paid close attention to the detail of the texts and gained a

wider view of their contexts, students should be appreciative readers of late seventeenth and eighteenth-century literature.

## Course Content

The focus is on the four major authors noted above under Course Objectives. Satire is one of the principal strengths of most of the writers studied—in no other period do we find such viciousness, political and social awareness, and humour combined (in poetry as well as prose). You are encouraged to browse in the Course Notes volumes and in the set anthology to gain a fuller sense of the Restoration and eighteenth-century context.

## MATERIALS

### Required texts:

From the VUW bookshop:

*The Restoration and the Eighteenth Century*, ed. Martin Price, Oxford Anthology of English Literature (OUP); Jonathan Swift, *Gulliver's Travels*, ed. Paul Turner (OUP, World's Classics).

From Student Notes:

*ENGL 315 - Course Notes 1*; *ENGL 315 - Course Notes 2 (yellow book)*.

### Secondary reading:

A selection of useful secondary material has been placed on Closed Reserve and 3-day Loan in the Library: search the Catalogue via selection '11. Closed Reserve & 3-Day Loan' and enter ENGL315.

## ASSESSMENT

The final grade for the course will be based on: **either** 50% course-work and 50% final examination, **or** 100% final examination, whichever is in the student's favour.

### Course-work:

The course-work component comprises three pieces of work, of equal value:

- (i) A take-home assignment, 1200-1500 words
- (ii) An essay, 1500-2000 words
- (iii) A second essay, 1500-2000 words

(i)

The take-home assignment will require a critical commentary on a passage from Dryden's *Absalom and Achitophel*.

**The assignment will be distributed at the lecture on Monday July 21, and your answers should be delivered by 5.00 pm a week later (on Monday July 28).**

(ii) **Due shortly after the mid-trimester break (by 5.00 pm on Wednesday September 3):** an essay on Dryden's *MacFlecknoe* and Pope's *Dunciad* IV (topics to be supplied in tutorial).

(iii) **To be handed in by Friday October 10 (again, by 5.00 pm):** an essay on Swift's *Gulliver's Travels* (topics to be supplied in tutorial).

Notes:

Where extensions have been applied for, and granted by Kathryn, written work will be assessed normally.

Work handed in later than the due dates, without permission having been given for an extension, will—as long as it is not merely notional—be accepted to satisfy course requirements up until October 10, but unless there are exceptional circumstances (such as bereavement or documented illness) such work will not be graded or annotated, and will not count towards course assessment.

The Head of School (AP Peter Whiteford) may in exceptional circumstances grant extensions up to the end of the examination period.

You should keep a photocopy of your written work in case of loss.

### **Examination:**

To be held during the examination period (October 17 - November 8, 2008).

The three-hour final examination will require three answers of equal value and will consist of:

- (A)  
a critical commentary on a passage from *either* *Absalom and Achitophel*, *or* Pope's *Epistle to a Lady*, *or* Pope's *Epistle to Burlington*, *or* Swift's *Modest Proposal*. (In other words, a passage from each of these texts will be supplied—you will be asked to write on just one of these.)
- (B)  
a critical commentary on a passage from *either* Swift's *Verses on the Death of Dr Swift*, *or* Gray's *Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard*, *or* Johnson's *Lives of the Poets*.
- (C)  
an essay on Johnson's fable *Rasselas* and his poem *The Vanity of Human Wishes*.

Textbooks may be taken into the examination room.

### **Relationship between assessment and course objectives**

The take-home assignment and Sections A and B of the final examination will allow students to show their ability to read the detail of the texts with understanding and appreciation. The two in-term essays and Section C of the final examination will invite students to engage more broadly with the preoccupations and strategies of the authors of this period

### **Academic integrity and plagiarism**

Academic integrity is about honesty – put simply it means *no cheating*. All members of the University community are responsible for upholding academic integrity, which means staff and students are expected to behave honestly, fairly and with respect for others at all times.

Plagiarism is a form of cheating which undermines academic integrity. The University defines plagiarism as follows:

*The presentation of the work of another person or other persons as if it were one's own, whether intended or not. This includes published or unpublished work, material on the Internet and the work of other students or staff.*

It is still plagiarism even if you re-structure the material or present it in your own style or words.

*Note: It is however, perfectly acceptable to include the work of others as long as that is acknowledged by appropriate referencing.*

Plagiarism is prohibited at Victoria and is not worth the risk. Any enrolled student found guilty of plagiarism will be subject to disciplinary procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct and may be penalized severely. Consequences of being found guilty of plagiarism can include:

- an oral or written warning
- cancellation of your mark for an assessment or a fail grade for the course
- suspension from the course or the University.

Find out more about plagiarism, and how to avoid it, on the University's website:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

## **WORKLOAD AND MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### **Workload**

16 hours per week is recommended as a basic work commitment for a 24-point 300-level one-semester course, inclusive of class contact hours. This suggests that you should be spending at least 12 hours each week on reading, writing, and preparation for the examination.

A word of advice!



You will find that the poetry of Dryden and Pope in particular requires quite careful reading. We recommend that, along with attending the Friday readings, you annotate your text in pencil—with headings, summaries and paraphrases. Where you can't make sense of a line or more, don't be discouraged—circle the problem passage and raise it for discussion with staff and fellow students.

### **Mandatory Course Requirements:**

**Candidates must complete the required in-term assessed work, and attend at least seven tutorials.**

**SEE PAGE 6 FOR A STATEMENT COVERING GENERAL UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND STATUTES.**

Robert Easting, Kathryn Walls  
Convenors

## GENERAL UNIVERSITY STATUTES AND POLICIES

Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the *Victoria University Calendar* available in hardcopy or under "about Victoria" on the Victoria homepage at:

[http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about\\_victoria/calendar\\_intro.html](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/calendar_intro.html)

Information on the following topics is available electronically under "Course Outline General Information" at:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/newspubs/universitypubs.aspx#general>

- Student and Staff Conduct
- Academic Grievances
- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism
- Meeting the Needs of Students with Impairments
- Student Support