The Age of Johnson
English 332.001

Fall 2001    Dr. G. F. Snelson
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Office Hours: M-W: 10 - 11:00, T-R 12:30 – 2:00, and by appointment

Catalog Description
Poetry and prose of the later 18th century. Attention to Johnson and Boswell, drama, and some major novels. Fall of odd-numbered years. Prerequisite: C or better in ENGL 101 or 111 or equivalent.

Student Resources
?? Fielding’s Joseph Andrews
?? Sterne’s Tristram Shandy
?? Boswell’s Life of Johnson
?? Sheridan’s School for Scandal
?? Goldsmith’s She Stoops to Conquer
?? Hand-outs for poetry and criticism
?? The Library
?? Two plays in PAC
?? DVD media: The Madness of King George, Tom Jones, others.

General Objectives
This course is designed to help you
?? Appreciate and respond to drama, poetry, biography, fiction, and criticism,
?? Understand the development of literary forms in the later 18th century,
?? Become aware of the connections between literature, politics, and religion during the period,
?? Appreciate and respond to filmed representations of the historical and literary period, and
?? Further develop expository writing skills.

Class Activities
Most classes are devoted mainly to close explication of the assigned reading with frequent questions directed to the student. There is some lecture material. At other times the class will take a “workshop” or “seminar” approach with you being expected to make brief presentations to the class. You should prepare to engage in analysis and explication of the works in class and in papers and other projects.

Papers
Two typewritten (word-processed) analytical papers, one of 750 words and one of 1000 words, based on primary materials, not on library (or electronic media) research or secondary materials, are due (complete) on the dates shown on the tentative schedule. *For one of these, a project may be substituted. The nature of the project will arise from classroom discussion and the curricular needs of the class. Two less-formal play evaluations of approximately 200-250 words each are required. Their due dates (papers are due at the
beginning of class) are noted on the tentative schedule. For any paper to be graded at least a C, minimal English 101 standards must be met. Late papers are penalized at the rate of 5% per day.

**Note:** Never give the only copy of any project to anyone.

**Grades**

Grades will be assigned on the basis of ten twenty-minute mini-tests, a final exam, two reviews, and two papers to be assigned during the semester. Class participation is expected, but exemplary participation will be taken into account in borderline cases. The NC grade is not a possibility.

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<th>Component</th>
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<tr>
<td>Performance Reviews</td>
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<td>Short Paper</td>
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<td>Long Paper</td>
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<td>Scheduled Quizzes</td>
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**Attendance**

You are expected to attend every class meeting. The real value of a university course in literature lies in the opportunity to share your own ideas and insights derived from the works and to test your reactions against those of the instructor and other members of the class. There is no way to “make up” this experience or recapture a discussion once it is past. On the other hand, emergencies arise. You are allowed to miss three classes for emergencies during the semester. Reserve your allotment for real emergencies. Your semester grade will be penalized three percentage points for each absence after the two (emergency) absences. Special exceptions, such as touring with a FSU theatre production, can be worked out between you and the instructor if your attendance is otherwise exemplary. If you miss a quiz, please see the instructor privately to discuss the possibility of a make-up. Notice that the course schedule has conference days built into it. You may discuss an upcoming paper at any time, but scheduling a conference on the day before a paper is due is strongly discouraged. A missed conference (one that you have scheduled) counts as a missed class meeting unless you reschedule in advance. Three tardies (late arrivals) count as one absence.

**Academic Dishonesty**

Academic dishonesty relates to “any form of cheating and/or plagiarism” as defined and explained in The Pathfinder. The University considers it “to be impermissible and subject to disciplinary action.” Penalties for academic dishonesty in this course will range from a zero
(0%) for the assignment to a failing grade in the course and referral to the judiciary board for its consideration. For the full statement regarding academic dishonesty, see The Pathfinder.

PROGRAM ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENT FOR ENGLISH MAJORS

A major goal of the English Department Assessment Program is to enable the faculty to assess the effectiveness of the English major and its requirements. By adhering to the following guidelines, you will help us to make improvements when they are needed. If your college curriculum is governed by a catalog prior to the 1999-2001 Undergraduate Catalog, you must submit at least one course paper from each of your English major classes for inclusion in your writing portfolio. These papers can be graded versions or freshly revised versions. This portfolio is to be established and maintained in the department file cabinet in DH 117-D. If, however, your program of study is governed by the 1999-2001 Undergraduate Catalog, you are required to maintain a writing portfolio on your own. You must include in this portfolio at least one graded paper from each of your major courses. Since your writing portfolio will provide a major focus for your work in ENGL 489, English Capstone, be diligent in your efforts each semester to identify and collect your best writing. This collection will also provide you with a body of work to support future applications for jobs and graduate school admission.

**Tentative Schedule**

**August**
31 Cultural background of the age

**September**
7 Bk. II
10 Bk. III
12 **Quiz 1**, Bk. IV
14 Henry McKenzie’s *Man of Feeling*, selections (handout); *Dictionary of Sensibility*, selections (handout)
17 Johnson’s *The Rambler*: 4, 36, 37
19 **Quiz 2**, *The Rambler*: 45, 60, 155, 183
21 Conferences

24 *The Idler*: 31, 32, 103; Preface to *A Dictionary of the English Language*
26 **Quiz 3**, Preface to *The Plays of William Shakespeare*
28 Conferences

**October**
1 *The School for Scandal*
3 *The School for Scandal*
5 Quiz 4, The School for Scandal
8 Selections from Boswell’s London Journal
10 First half of Boswell’s Life of Johnson
12 Conferences
15 First half of Boswell’s Life of Johnson
17 First half of Boswell’s Life of Johnson
19 Second half of Boswell’s Life of Johnson
22 Second half of Boswell’s Life of Johnson
24 Quiz 5, Second half of Boswell’s Life of Johnson
26 Compensation for play attendance: no class
29 She Stoops to Conquer
31 Quiz 6, She Stoops to Conquer

November
2 Career Day: no class
5 Tristram Shandy
7 Tristram Shandy
9 Conferences
12 Quiz 7, Tristram Shandy
14 Tristram Shandy
16 Tristram Shandy
19 Quiz 8, Tristram Shandy
21 Paper 2 due, but no class this day: compensation for play attendance
26 Poetry: Goldsmith, Johnson
28 Quiz 9, Poetry: Gray, Collins, and Crabbe
30 Conferences

December
3 Play Review due, Robert Burns
5 Quiz 10, Robert Burns
7 Conferences
10 Course evaluation; Catch-up time
12 Review for final examination
Note: Play reviews are due the Monday following the final performance of the run.