ÇANKAYA UNIVERSITY
Department of English Language and Literature
2026-2027 Academic Year – Fall Semester
ELL 381 18th Century Literature (303-06)
Course Syllabus

Instructor: Özge Üstündağ Güvenç, PhD.
Course Hours: 9.20 – 12.10 Tuesday
Class: RB 04
Office Hours: 13.00 – 14.00 Tuesday
Office: R 107 **Phone**: 2331416
e-mail: ozgeguvenc@cankaya.edu.tr

Course Description

The eighteenth century, the "Age of Enlightenment," is a period of conceptual and political revolutions, and presents a wide variety of diverse texts and international interactions in fields from literature, music and philosophy to economics, politics and the natural sciences. This course will enable students to engage with aspects of the local and international significance of these revolutions in thought and society, as well as their implications for developments over the next two centuries and up to the present. From the perspective of English literature, topics covered may range from the mock-heroics and satires of Pope and Swift, the poetry of Gray and Young, the essays of Addison and Steele, and the literary criticism of Samuel Johnson, to the development of the novel by such writers as Defoe, Fielding and Richardson, and the origins of the gothic in Walpole, Radcliffe and Lewis. Other areas of focus might include the arguments of European rationalist philosophers, the evolution of classical musical genres, or developments in science and cross-cultural currents and influences from or in Europe, the Americas, and other regions.

Course Objectives

To study a variety of texts from the period, in terms both of their intrinsic interest and of their influences on later periods;

To engage in interpreting selected texts from the period in relation to broader transhistorical developments; and to develop knowledge and critical sophistication in analysing these texts and producing scholarly written work on them.

Requirements

As the course aims to discuss various aspects of the "Age of Enlightenment," in its socio-cultural, intellectual and political contexts, course activities will be based on analysing literary, artistic and philosophical works. Therefore, for each class, students are expected to:

1. Be ready to discuss the debatable issues in class
2. Bring a pen, pencil, and paper to be able to take notes
3. Participate in class and group discussions and activities
4. Turn off their mobile phones during class

Course Materials

Abrams, M. H., et al., eds. *The Norton Anthology of English Literature*: *The Restoration and the Eighteenth Century*. 10th ed., W. W. Norton & Company, 2018.

Watt, Ian. *The Rise of the Novel*. U of California P, 1964.

Defoe, Daniel. *Moll Flanders*. Barnes & Noble Classics, 2005.

A minimum attendance of 60% is mandatory. Students who do not meet this requirement will not be permitted to take the final examination. Students are responsible for tracking their own attendance.

Students who are found to have committed cheating in an examination or plagiarism on an assignment will fail the examination or assignment, and the final grade of that course will be reduced by twenty percent (20 %). Further action will also be taken if necessary. Please see university regulations.

Evaluation and Grading

ASSESSMENT TOOL	QUANTITY	PERCENTAGE
Midterm Exam	1	% 30
Final Exam	1	% 40
Writing an argumentative essay	1	% 25
Attending classes regularly with the required class materials pack and actively participating in discussions of the reading materials.	14	% 5

Weekly Schedule

Weeks	Content
Week 1 28 Sep. – 2 Oct.	Course Introduction – **Syllabus** Introduction to the 18th Century
Week 2 5 – 9 Oct.	Selections from *The Spectator* and *The Tatler* Richard Steele – [The Spectator's Club] Joseph Addison – [The Aims of the *Spectator*] Joseph Addison – [The Royal Exchange]
Week 3 12 – 16 Oct.	Samuel Pepys, from *The Diary*, "The Great Fire" and "The Great Plague" Mary Astell from *Some Reflections upon Marriage* Lady Mary Wortley Montagu from *Turkish Embassy Letters*
Week 4 19 – 23 Oct.	Alexander Pope, "The Rape of the Lock"
Week 5 26 – 30 Oct.	Ian Watt, from *The Rise of the Novel* Chapter I – Realism and The Novel Form Chapter II – The Reading Public and the Rise of the Novel
Week 6 2 – 6 Nov.	Aphra Behn, *Oroonoko, or, The Royal Slave* (Part I)

Week 7 9 – 13 Nov.	Aphra Behn, *Oroonoko, or, The Royal Slave* (Part II)
Week 8 16 – 20 Nov.	**Revision and Midterm**
Week 9 23 – 27 Nov.	Jonathan Swift from *Gulliver's Travels* "A Voyage to Lilliput" – Chapters 1-4
Week 10 30 Nov. – 4 Dec.	Jonathan Swift from *Gulliver's Travels* "A Voyage to Lilliput" – Chapters 5-8
Week 11 7 – 11 Dec.	Daniel Defoe *Moll Flanders*
Week 12 14 – 18 Dec.	Daniel Defoe *Moll Flanders*
Week 13 21 – 25 Dec.	Daniel Defoe *Moll Flanders*
Week 14 28 – 31 Dec.	**Argumentative Essay Writing in class**
Week 15 4 – 8 Jan.	**FINAL WEEK**
Week 16 11 – 15 Jan.	**FINAL WEEK**

I WISH US ALL A GREAT SEMESTER