Monday 11:30-1:30
Lawson Hall 2270C

Instructor: Allyson N. May
Office: Lawson Hall 1205
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Office Hours: Thurs. 3:30-4:30 pm
Or by appointment

This course explores English society in the eighteenth century, looking first at the social hierarchy and then turning to gender roles and relations, religion, the eighteenth-century landscape, the birth of a consumer society and the new industrialism which fed it, eighteenth-century constructions of ‘home’, leisure activities, and the way in which social relations played out in the criminal justice system. We will conclude by focusing on Georgian London. The class will also participate in a shared reading experience over the course of the term, each student reporting on a volume of Samuel Richardson’s novel Clarissa.

Required texts:
Weekly readings are available via Weldon Library.

Grading Scheme:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Book review</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seminar presentation</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay</td>
<td>40%</td>
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Attendance is mandatory and will not in itself count towards the participation mark.

Background reading

Students are encouraged to read at least one and preferably two of the following as preparation for the course:

1 (9 Sept.)
Introduction

2 (16 Sept.)
Property and authority: The aristocracy
Stella Tillyard, *Aristocrats: Caroline, Emily, Louisa and Sarah Lennox, 1740-1832* (New York, 1994)

3 (23 Sept.)
‘A polite and commercial people’: The middling sort
Leonore Davidoff and Catherine Hall, *Family Fortunes: Men and Women of the English Middle Class, 1780-1850* (London, ca. 1987)

4 (30 Sept.)
The labouring poor
E.P. Thompson, ‘Patrician Society, Plebeian Culture,’ *Journal of Social History* (Summer 1974): 382-405

5 (7 Oct.)

**Gender**

Katharine M. Rogers, *Feminism in Eighteenth-Century England* (Urbana, IL, 1982)
Anna Clark, *The Struggle for the Breeches* (Berkeley, 1995)
Mary Ann Clawson, *Constructing Brotherhood: Class, Gender, and Fraternalism* (Princeton, 1989)

**Thanksgiving**

6 (21 Oct.)

**Landscape**


John Dixon Hunt and Peter Willis, eds., *The Genius of the Place: The English Landscape Garden, 1620-1820* (Cambridge, MA, 1988)


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**Domesticity**


John R. Gillis, *For Better, For Worse: British Marriages, 1600 to Present* (New York, 1985)


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**Religion**

N. Sykes, *Church and State in England in the Eighteenth Century* (Cambridge, 1934)

9 (11 Nov.)

**Consumerism and industrial evolution**


10 (18 Nov.)

**Leisure**

James Raven, Helen Small, and Naomi Tadmor, eds., *The Practice and Representation of Reading in England* (Cambridge, 1996), chaps. 9, 10 & 11


Leo Hughes, *The Drama’s Patrons: A Study of the Eighteenth-Century London Audience* (Austin, TX, 1971)


11 (25 Nov.)

**Crime and punishment**


12 (2 Dec.)

**London**


