The University of Western Ontario  
Department of History  
2014-15

History 9403A  
Eighteenth-Century English Society

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

Instructor: Allyson N. May  
Office: Lawson Hall 1205  
E-mail: amay6@uwo.ca

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% (1500 words)</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% (5000 words)</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:

John Rule, Albion’s People: English Society 1714-1815 (London, 1992)
1 (8 Sept.)

Introduction

2 (15 Sept.)

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

3 (22 Sept.)

‘A polite and commercial people’: The middling sort
R.B. Westerfield, Middlemen in English Business, Particularly between 1660 and 1760 (1915; repr. New York, 1968)
R.G. Wilson, Gentlemen Merchants: The Merchant Community in Leeds, 1700-1830 (Manchester, 1971)
S.D. Chapman, The Early Factory Masters (Newton Abbot, 1967)
J. Smail, The Origins of Middle-Class Culture: Halifax, Yorkshire, 1660-1780 (Ithaca, NY, 1994)
Leonore Davidoff and Catherine Hall, Family Fortunes: Men and Women of the English Middle Class, 1780-1830 (London, ca. 1987)
Margaret Hunt, The Middling Sort: Commerce, Gender, and the Family, 1680-1780 (Berkeley, ca. 1996)

4 (29 Sept.)

The labouring poor
W. Hasbach, A History of the English Agricultural Labourer (London, 1908)
E.P. Thompson, ‘Patrician Society, Plebeian Culture,’ *Journal of Social History* (Summer 1974): 382-405

5 (6 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 (20 Oct.)

**Landscape**


3

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


7 (27 Oct.)

**Domesticity**


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


8 (3 Nov.)

**Religion**

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

9 (10 Nov.)

**Consumerism and industrial evolution**

10 (17 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 (24 Nov.)

**Crime and punishment**


12 (1 Dec.)

**London**


Health and Wellness

As part of a successful graduate student experience at Western, we encourage students to make their health and wellness a priority. Western provides several on campus health-related services to help you achieve optimum health and engage in healthy living while pursuing your graduate degree. For example, to support physical activity, all students, as part of their registration, receive membership in Western’s Campus Recreation Centre. Numerous cultural events are offered throughout the year. Please check out the Faculty of Music web page http://www.music.uwo.ca/, and our own McIntosh Gallery http://www.mcintoshgallery.ca/. Information regarding health- and wellness-related services available to students may be found at http://www.health.uwo.ca/

Students seeking help regarding mental health concerns are advised to speak to someone they feel comfortable confiding in, such as their faculty supervisor, their program director (graduate chair), or other relevant administrators in their unit. Campus mental health resources may be found at http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental_health/resources.html

To help you learn more about mental health, Western has developed an interactive mental health learning module, found here: http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental_health/module.html. This module is 30 minutes in length and provides participants with a basic understanding of mental health issues and of available campus and community resources. Topics include stress, anxiety, depression, suicide and eating disorders. After successful completion of the module, participants receive a certificate confirming their participation.