English 308: Restoration and Eighteenth-Century Drama
Fall 2009: Course Description

Details
Instructor: John M. Ware
Office: Main 331
Office hours: Thursdays 4:00-5:00; Mondays/Wednesdays/Fridays 2:00-3:00; and by appointment.
Office phone: 597-4362
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Sections: ENGL 308A; MWF 1:00-1:50; Main 324

Course Materials

Required Texts

Contextual Readings (provided as pdf files)
“Steele and Dennis.” McMillan, pp. 517-29.

Critical Readings (provided as pdf files)

Course Description
In this course, we will examine a variety of plays written and performed (with one exception) between 1660 and 1800 with an emphasis on comedy. The plays studied range from Etherege’s *Man of Mode*, to Centlivre’s *Bold Stroke for a Wife*, to Burney’s *The Witlings*. Contextual readings highlight critical debates such as those involving Dryden, Congreve, Collier, Dennis, and Steele, as well as topics addressed by Johnson and Inchbald. We will also read criticism related to these plays and demonstrating a variety of critical perspectives. Our objectives are to read the plays attentively, to relate the plays to other literary products of the Restoration and
eighteenth century, to understand and evaluate the ways in which the plays have been treated in select criticism, and to consider the applicability of these plays to contemporary living.

Coursework

The graded assignments for English 308 include a reading journal (two entries per week, installments collected at three points during the semester), a brief literary analysis, a scenic adaptation, and a research-supported essay. Reading journal entries consist of informal writing in response to weekly reading. See the Reading Journal Guidelines assignment for details. The brief literary analysis consists of a close-reading of a single play in relation to a particular topic or theme. See the assignment sheet for details. The scenic adaptation asks that you select a significant scene or portion of a scene and reproduce it in some fashion. Possibilities include adapting the scene to contemporary context by keeping the lines but changing the environment or by altering both lines and context but maintaining some identifiable element of a play (dramatic action or character). Adaptations don’t require living actors: animation, claymation, and puppets are possibilities. Although every member of class needs to participate in an adaptation, you are welcome to divide into groups or work on your own. I would like a plan describing the scene that you’re adapting, the participants, and the responsibilities of participants on 11/23. A cd or dvd with the adaptation is due on the last day of class. The research-assisted essay consists of a 12-15 page essay in which the writer makes a specific argument regarding a play, author, or topic and places that argument within the appropriate critical context. See the assignment sheet for details.

In addition to the graded assignments, I expect you to attend class regularly, complete the assigned reading, and participate in discussion. Shortly into the semester, students will be assigned to groups whose responsibilities will include reviewing and commenting on drafts of assignments in order to help writers improve their work.

Moodle

This course will rely on its Moodle site for distribution of readings not included in the textbooks, distribution of assignments, the online gradebook feature, submission of journal entries, and the submission and return of the literary analysis and the research-assisted essay.

Grades

During the semester, you will receive six grades each of which contributes 10-30% to your final grade:

- Reading Journal (20%)
- Scenic Adaptation (10%)
- Literary Analysis (25%)
- Research-Assisted Essay (30%)
- Attendance and Participation (15%)

Grades are represented on a 100-point scale that breaks down as follows:

- 93-100: A
- 90-92: A-
- 87-89: B+
- 83-86: B
- 80-82: B-
- 77-79: C+
- 73-76: C
- 70-72: C-
Your grade is something you earn, and you have every right to be concerned about it. Please visit me during my office hours or schedule a time to meet with me if you have any questions or concerns about your grade.

**Attendance and Participation**

Attendance, preparation, and participation contribute 15% to your final grade. A general, but not binding, way of conceiving of the effect of attendance on your grade is as follows: with 1-3 absences, you may still earn an A in attendance; with 3-5 absences, you may still earn a B in attendance; with 5-7 absences, you may still earn a C or a D in attendance; with 7-9 absences, you will likely receive an F (00) in attendance; with more than 9 absences, you will not get credit for this course. Alert me to necessary absences and unusual circumstances; retain documentation of absences. With supporting documentation, absences due to official college events will not negatively affect your grade, but they will count as absences.

If you enter class after I have checked the roll, you are late, and it is your responsibility to see me immediately after class to be certain that I count you as present. If you are more than ten minutes late to class, you are welcome to stay, but I will not give you credit for having attended.

Participation begins with adequate preparation for class: the completion of required reading, writing, drafts, or comments, for example. Participation includes the extent of your contributions to discussion, your attentiveness, and the quality of your comments on peers’ drafts.

**Office Hours, Email, Phone**

Office hours are times during which you can drop by my office without prior notice and with the assurance that I will be there unless I have indicated otherwise. Please take advantage of this time to discuss any aspects of this class. I will gladly meet with you at other times; we simply need to arrange to do so. My office phone number is 597-4362, but the most effective way to contact me is by email.

**The Honor Code**

The Wofford College Honor Pledge charges students to uphold the integrity of the College. In this course, we will discuss methods by which writers clearly signal material that they have borrowed from an outside source and incorporated into their own work through quotation, paraphrase, or summary. Failure to properly acknowledge one’s sources or to quote, paraphrase, or summarize appropriately constitutes plagiarism, which is an honor code violation.

All writing for this class is to originate with this class. If you wish to use writing from an earlier point in your academic career, you need to discuss this matter with me prior to submitting any assignment.

**Classroom Policies**

Food and drink.
Telephony.

**Other Resources**

Wofford College offers services related to students’ academic performance and personal wellbeing: The Writing Center and Health Services are two services to keep in mind.