



**Instructor:** David Francis Taylor

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**Course Number:** ENG306Y5Y

**Course Title:** Poetry and Prose, 1660-1800

**Course description:** The periods of the Restoration and eighteenth century witnessed considerable changes in British society, politics, culture, and literature. In this course we will not only track these shifts through a remarkable range of texts and writers but also discover the extent to which such developments and transformations in social, political, and literary arenas were inextricably intertwined. We will read works both by canonical writers (such as John Dryden, Jonathan Swift, Alexander Pope, and Samuel Johnson) and by those traditionally excluded from anthologies and syllabi (women such as Margaret Cavendish and Anne Finch, or working-class figures like Stephen Duck). In doing so, we will consider the *construction* of literary history and canonicity, both then and now, and engage with the major themes and narratives unfolding in eighteenth-century Britain. To study the dynamic experiments and innovations in form, style, and genre, this course will suggest, is to study the complex ways in which attitudes and practices of class, gender, and nationhood were created and reconfigured across this extended period.

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**Required Reading:**

A wide selection of readings from *The Broadview Anthology of British Literature*, Vol: 3: *The Restoration and Eighteenth Century*, 2nd edition (Broadview)  
Samuel Johnson, *Rasselas* (Oxford World Classics)  
Samuel Johnson, *A Journey to the Western Islands of Scotland* / James Boswell, *The Journal of a Tour to the Hebrides* (Penguin)

**First Three Texts/Authors to be Studied:**

Samuel Pepys, extracts from *The Diary*; John Bunyan, extracts from *Pilgrim's Progress*; Rochester (all in the Broadview Anthology).

**Method of Instruction:**

Lecture and discussion.

**Method of Evaluation:**

Two essays (20% and 25%), term test (20%), final exam (35%)