

FW 2025-26

AP/EN 4120 6.0A (Y)	Studies in 18th-Century Literature: The Rise of the Novel
Course Director:	Prof. Katarina O'Briain 620 Atkinson Ext. 22147 Email: kobriain@yorku.ca
Time:	Wednesdays, 11:30–2:20
Delivery Format:	X SEMINAR
Description:	This course traces the development of the novel across the long eighteenth century, paying close attention to how the genre engages some of the period's key political concerns: orientalism, colonialism, and slavery; the politics of domesticity; heteropatriarchy and the colonial gender binary; discourses of property and personhood; and the development of global and racial capitalism, among others. As we'll see, the eighteenth-century novel persists in bringing together modes that might often be thought as distinct, including romance and realism; selfhood and objectification; sensibility and commodification. Our class will closely analyze the ways in which writers revise, establish, and experiment with the novel form to offer a complicated set of social claims, and novels will be read alongside contemporary philosophy and art, as well as more recent criticism and theory. Throughout we'll attend to the ways in which the novel reinforces and develops some of the most harmful Enlightenment discourses that remain with us today, while also seeking to recover the foreclosed possibilities that the period and its most capacious genre have to offer.
Category:	B
Historical Requirement:	Time Period II
Requirements:	Essay 1 (1500 words), 20% Essay Proposal and Discussion, 10% Essay 2 (3000 words), 25% In-Class Seminar Presentation, 15% Participation, 15% Final Exam, 15%
Reading List:	Aphra Behn, <i>Oroonoko</i> (Penguin) Daniel Defoe, <i>Roxana</i> (Penguin) Samuel Richardson, <i>Pamela</i> (Oxford) Henry Fielding, <i>Tom Jones</i> (Oxford) <i>The Female American; or, The Adventures of Unca Eliza Winkfield</i> (Broadview)

	<p>Frances Burney, <i>Evelina</i> (Oxford)</p> <p>Laurence Sterne, <i>Tristram Shandy</i> (Penguin)</p> <p>Jane Austen, <i>Mansfield Park</i> (Penguin)</p> <p>Brief selections from <i>Hayy ibn Yaqzan: A Philosophical Tale</i>, <i>Don Quixote</i>, <i>One Thousand and One Nights</i>, <i>Fantomina</i>, <i>The Female Spectator</i>, <i>The Turkish Embassy Letters</i>, <i>Robinson Crusoe</i>, <i>Gulliver's Travels</i>, <i>The Collected Writings of Samson Occom</i>, <i>A Sentimental Journey</i>, <i>The Letters of Ignatius Sancho</i>, and <i>The Interesting Narrative of Olaudah Equiano</i> will be available as PDFs — along with criticism, philosophy, and theory by John Locke, Ian Watt, Nancy Armstrong, Katherine McKittrick, Sylvia Wynter, Sandra Macpherson, Srinivas Aravamudan, Georg Lukacs, Viktor Shklovsky, Betty Joseph, Deidre Lynch, Eugenia Zuroski, Kristina Huang, Lisa Lowe, Edward Said, Deirdre Coleman, and others.</p>
Open To:	Yr 4 Honours (EN, ENPR, CRWR students only)