

Summer 2024

ENGL PhD Course Descriptions

Session 050: May 15-June 25

ENGL 530

Restoration & 18th Century British Literatures & Cultures: *The Dispossessed Eighteenth Century*

Ashley Cohen

TWTh | 10:00 a.m. to 12:50 p.m. | Section 32800D

When we think about the eighteenth century, we tend to picture gentlemen and gentlemen's daughters—the kinds of characters who might attend a polite country assembly in one of Jane Austen's novels. When we tell a slightly different story about the eighteenth century—say, the rise of the middle class—this cast of characters expands slightly to include the London merchants and bourgeois professionals we find in the novels of Tobias Smollett and the coffee house prose of Joseph Addison and Richard Steele. Toss in the rakes, squires, patricians, and peers that we find in Pope and Richardson and all of these characters taken together still only account for the wealthiest 1% of eighteenth-century Englishmen (not to mention Britons).

In this class, our focus will be the remaining 99%: weavers and butchers, farmhands and swains, prostitutes and servants, highwaymen and housebreakers, chimney sweeps and child miners, the enslaved and the colonized. These are the protagonists of what some scholars have begun to call "the dispossessed eighteenth century." They are the casualties of English capitalism's meteoric rise, the product of what is often called "development." While it is true that processes of property accumulation, enclosure, imperialism, and industrialization resulted in the unprecedented enrichment of England's ruling classes, they also resulted in the pauperization and immiseration of the nation's—and empire's—laboring poor, its 99%.

We will take the eighteenth century as a case study in dispossession, reading foundational theorizing around the concept of primitive accumulation as well as cutting-edge new scholarship that puts dispossession front and center in eighteenth-century studies. The course will also serve as an introduction to eighteenth-century literature, so no prior coursework in the period is required. Readings will include: Gerrard Winstanley, John Locke, William Blake, Charles Brockden Brown, Karl Marx, Silvia Federici, Robert Nichols, Douglas Hay, Peter Linebaugh.

ENGL 599

Special Topics: *Writing & Publishing Today: Journal Article & Dissertation Chapter Seminar*

Jonathan Leal

M | 10 a.m. to 1:50 p.m. | Section 32791D

This course is designed to provide a framework for completing your humanities dissertation in a timely fashion; for peer review and faculty editorial advice about chapter drafts; and for research and revision. During the course, participants will write weekly, read and edit peers' works in a supportive environment and learn practical information and skills relevant to contemporary academic publishing, including: formal and professional differences between dissertation chapters, journal articles, and book chapters for edited volumes; discipline and field-specific writing conventions, as well as how to approach interdisciplinary, transdisciplinary, and critical nonfiction writing from dissertation and publishing perspectives; and revision procedures for academic projects, including responding to peer-review reports.

Session 051: June 26- August 6

ENGL 591

20th Century American Literatures & Cultures: *Autotheory: Writing & Theorizing from Lived Experience*

Elda María Román

MWF | 1:00-3:50 p.m. | Section 32793D

“Autofiction.” “Autoethnography.” “Theoretical Novels.” “Critical-Personal Essays.” “Hybrid Memoirs.” “Critical Nonfiction.” “Genre-breaking Texts.” “Life-Writing.” These have all been labels used to categorize what is also known as “Autotheory.” According to Laura Fournier, “the history of feminism is, in a sense, a history of autotheory—one that

actively seeks to bridge theory and practice and upholds tenets like “the personal is political.””

In this seminar, we will read a selection of authors who write and theorize from lived experience and who push the boundaries between memoir, nonfiction, and cultural criticism. Students will be able to write a final paper offering an analysis of a primary text or will be able to submit work of their own experimenting in this genre.



English D-Clearance Requests

- Contact Jeanne Weiss (jeannew@usc.edu) to request D-clearance for Summer 2024 courses offered through the Department of English.

