

# SUMMER 2025

## GRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

# Restoration and 18th Century British Literature and Cultures

Cohen, Ashley

TWTH | 10:00-12:50 PM

SECTION: 32800

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.

# Special Topics

*Writing and Publishing Today: Journal Article and Dissertation Chapter Seminar*

Leal, Jonathan

M | 10:00-1:50 PM

SECTION: 32791

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 creative-critical writing from dissertation and publishing perspectives; and revision procedures for academic projects, including responding to peer-review reports.



Image by Thomas Rowlandson, *Billingsgate Fish Market*, undated.

# CONTACT US

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## D-CLEARANCE REQUESTS:

Contact **Janalynn Bliss** ([jbliss@usc.edu](mailto:jbliss@usc.edu)) to request D-clearance for graduate workshop and form and theory courses.

Contact **Andrea Leal** ([leala@usc.edu](mailto:leala@usc.edu)) to request D-clearance for other PhD courses in the Department of English.