

## English 340: Restoration Literature

Professor J. Brady  
Palmer 306 (office)  
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Fall, 1998  
M hour, in  
Palmer 201

This course explores English literature after the restoration of Charles II to the throne in 1660. We will be on plays by representative dramatists, including Wycherley, Etherege, Dryden, Southerne, and Congreve, and on the unique conditions of the theater they wrote for between 1660 and 1700. This survey includes other genres -- prose fiction, satiric poetry -- of the period; authors span the representative to the notorious.

### Texts:

William Wycherley, The Country Wife (New Mermaids)  
George Etherege, The Man of Mode (New Mermaids)  
John Dryden, All for Love (Norton)  
John Dryden, Amphitryon in Four Restoration Marriage Plays (World's Classics)  
John Dryden, Selected Poetry and Prose of John Dryden (McGraw-Hill)  
Thomas Southerne, The Wives' Excuse in Four Restoration Marriage Plays (World's Classics)  
William Congreve, The Comedies of William Congreve (Penguin)  
Daniel Defoe, Roxana (Oxford UP)  
George Savile, Marquis of Halifax, "A Character of King Charles II" (handout)  
John Wilmot, Earl of Rochester, Selected poems (handout)

### Evaluation:

- 60% You are required to write essays of 1500 words each on the central units of this course
- 10% Participation in the class, attendance, preparation for class, and willingness to engage with the primary material and the scholarship in the field. Students who are absent for more than 5 classes will be asked to withdraw from the course; more than 3 absences -- or very tardy arrivals to class -- will significantly affect this component of your grade.
- 10% In-class question
- 10% In-class midterm on Rochester and Dryden's All for Love
- 10% In-class final on Southerne's The Wives' Excuse and Defoe's Roxana

**Schedule:**

**Restoration Comedies of the 1670s**

September 1, 3, 8

The Country Wife

September 10, 15, 17

The Man of Mode

September 18

Due date, first essay, 1500 words

**Court Milieu: The Figure of the Rake**

September 22

Rochester's poetry (handout)

September 24

"A Character of King Charles II" (handout)

September 29, October 1, 6

All for Love

October 8

Midterm in-class essay

**Dryden**

October 13, 15

Amphitryon

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**FALL RECESS**

October 22

Preface to Fables and "The Cock and the Fox" in Selected Poetry and Prose of John Dryden

October 27

"Mac Flecknoe" in Selected Poetry and Prose of

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October 29 "To My Dear Friend,  
Mr. Congreve, on His Comedy, Call'd The Double Dealer"

October 30 Due date, second essay, 1500 words

**Congreve**

November 3, 5 The Double Dealer

November 10, 12, 17 The Way of the World

November 18 Due date, third essay, 1500 words

November 19, 24 The Wives' Excuse

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THANKSGIVING BREAK

December 1, 3 Roxana

December 8 In-class essay

**Reserve Readings:**

I have placed most of the following books and articles on reserve in Burrow Library, and will be adding others over the semester. You might want to begin your reading with these, but feel free to roam beyond this list. In each of your papers, you are expected to have consulted some relevant critical material.

secondary  
three short

On Restoration drama, see:

Peter Holland, The Ornament of Action: Text and Performance in Restoration Comedy (Cambridge UP, 1992).  
Elizabeth Howe, The first English actresses: Woman and drama, 1660-1700 (Cambridge UP, 1992).

Harold Love, Congreve (Rowan and Littlefield, 1975).

Harold Love, "The Wives' Excuse and Restoration Comedy," Komos 2 (1969-70).

Robert Markley, Two-Edg'd Weapons: Style and Ideology in the Comedies of Wycherley, Etherege, and Congreve (Clarendon P, 1988).

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Katharine Eisaman Maus, "Playhouse Flesh and Blood': Sexual Ideology and the Restoration A

Judith Milhous and Robert Hume, Producible Interpretation: English English Plays, 1675-1707 (Southern Illinois UP, 1985). This valuable book has chapters on most of the plays we are reading this semester.

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See Jocelyn Powell, Restoration Theatre Production (Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1984) . chapters on The Country Wife, Venice Preserved, and The Way of the World.  
Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick, See Introduction and Chapter 3, on The Country Wife, in Between Men  
J. L. Styan, Restoration Comedy in Performance (Cambridge UP, 1986).  
Rose Zimbardo, Wycherley's Drama: A Link in the Development of English Satire (Yale UP, 1990).

On John Wilmot, Earl of Rochester, see:

Dustin H. Griffin, Satires Against Man: The Poems of Rochester (U of California P, 1973).  
David M. Vieth, ed., The Complete Poems of John Wilmot, Earl of Rochester (Yale UP, 1968).  
Marianne Thormählen, Rochester: The Poems in Context (Cambridge UP, 1993).

On Charles II, see:

Paul Hammond, "The King's Two Bodies: Representations of Charles II," in  
Jeremy Black and Jeremy Gregory, eds., Culture, Politics and Society in Britain, 1660-1800 (Manchester UP, 1991), pp. 13-48.

On Dryden, including his satire, see:

Dustin Griffin, Satire: A Critical Reintroduction (UP of Kentucky, 1994).  
Robert D. Hume, Dryden's Criticism (Cornell UP, 1970).  
Earl Miner, Dryden's Poetry (Indiana UP, 1967).  
Earl Miner and Jennifer Brady, Literary transmission and authority: Dryden and other writers  
Cedric D. Reverand II, Dryden's Final Poetic Mode (U of Pennsylvania P, 1988).  
Michael Seidel, Satiric Inheritance, Rabelais to Sterne (Princeton UP, 1979).  
James Anderson Winn, John Dryden and His World (Yale UP, 1987).

On Daniel Defoe, see:

Paula Backscheider, Daniel Defoe: Ambition and Innovation (UP of Kentucky, 1986).  
Maximillian E. Novak, Realism, Myth, and History in Defoe's Fiction (U of Nebraska P, 1983).  
John J. Richetti, Daniel Defoe (Twayne, 1987).



