This course explores English literature after the restoration of Charles II to the throne in 1660. It 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, *Amphitryon* in *Four Restoration Marriage Plays* (World’s Classics)  
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 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 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:**

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<td>September 1, 3, 8</td>
<td><em>The Country Wife</em></td>
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<td>September 10, 15, 17</td>
<td><em>The Man of Mode</em></td>
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<td>September 18</td>
<td>Due date, first essay, 1500 words</td>
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<td>September 22</td>
<td><em>Court Milieu: The Figure of the Rake</em></td>
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<td>September 22</td>
<td>Rochester’s poetry (handout)</td>
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<td>September 24</td>
<td>“A Character of King Charles II” (handout)</td>
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<td>September 29, October 1, 6</td>
<td><em>All for Love</em></td>
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<td>October 8</td>
<td>Midterm in-class essay</td>
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<td>October 13, 15</td>
<td><em>Amphitryon</em></td>
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<td><strong>FALL RECESS</strong></td>
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<td>October 22</td>
<td>Preface to Fables and “The Cock and the Fox” in <em>Selected Poetry and Prose of John Dryden</em></td>
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<td>October 27</td>
<td>“Mac Flecknoe” in <em>Selected Poetry and Prose of John Dryden</em></td>
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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

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.

On Restoration drama, see:


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.


On John Wilmot, Earl of Rochester, see:


On Charles II, see:


On Dryden, including his satire, see:


On Daniel Defoe, see:
