This course explores English literature after the restoration of Charles II to the throne in 1660. Topics include: the reopening of the theaters; the introduction of the actress to the stage in lieu of the boy actors who had played women’s roles in the Renaissance; the flourishing of drama after the interregnum. Our focus will be on plays by influential and popular dramatists, including Etherege, Dryden, Otway, Shadwell, Cibber, Vanbrugh, Congreve, and Farquhar and on the unique conditions of the theater they wrote for between 1675 and 1707. We will examine royal sponsorship of the theater of this period and the dissolute atmosphere of Charles II’s court, as depicted in verse satires by the king’s godson, the Earl of Rochester.

Texts:

David Womersley, ed. *Restoration Drama: An Anthology* (Blackwell)
John Dryden, *Marriage A la Mode*, ed. David Crane (New Mermaids)
Deborah Payne Fisk, ed. *Four Restoration Libertine Plays* (Oxford)

Office Hours:

Tuesday and Thursday: 11:00-12:00, or by appointment from Monday through Thursday.

Attendance Policy:

This class will be run as a combination of lecture, seminar, and discussion. Late arrivals to class will be counted as absences and any student who misses or comes late to class more than four times in the semester will receive a zero in class participation and attendance and may be asked to withdraw from the course.

Method of Evaluation:

40% Two critical essays of 5 pages each

30% Research essay of 8-10 pages

20% Participation in the class, attendance, preparation for class, and willingness to engage with the primary material and the scholarship in the field. You are
required to read the assigned criticism or supplementary primary texts in conjunction with each week's principal reading.

10%  An essay of 3-4 pages on an aspect of theatrical performance or staging that interests you or on an actor or actress of the period, with illustrations from the plays we have studied. This essay must be submitted by Easter recess at the latest.

Schedule:

January 12  Introductory Remarks
Jan. 14, 19, 21, 24  Etherege’s *The Man of Mode* (1676)
January 26, 28  Rochester’s poems, Halifax’s portrait of King Charles II (handouts)
January 31, Feb. 2, 4, 7  Dryden’s *Marriage A la Mode* (1673)
February 9, 11  Shadwell’s *The Libertine* (1675)
Feb. 14  The Restoration actress
February 15  First essay due
February 16, 18, 21, 23  Dryden’s *All for Love* (1677)
Feb. 25, 28, March 2, 4  Otway’s *Venice Preserved* (1682)
March 7, 9, 11  Otway’s *Friendship in Fashion* (1678)
March 14-18  Spring Break
March 21, 23  Cibber’s *Love’s Last Shift* (1696)
March 25  No class, away at conference
March 28  *Love’s Last Shift*
March 30  Second essay due
April 1, 4, 6  Vanbrugh’s *The Relapse* (1696)
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>April 8, 11, 13, 15</td>
<td>Congreve’s <em>The Way of the World</em> (1700)</td>
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<td>April 18, 20</td>
<td>Farquhar’s <em>The Beaux’ Stratagem</em> (1707)</td>
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<td>April 22</td>
<td>Easter Recess</td>
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<td>April 25</td>
<td>Farquhar’s <em>The Beaux’ Stratagem</em> (1707)</td>
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<td>April 27</td>
<td>Third essay due</td>
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