

## Before Jane Austen: Eighteenth-Century Women Novelists

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ENL 3112 | Spring 2022 | SECTION S225

Meeting times: T2-3, R3 | Classroom: TUR 2333

*Instructor:* Roger Maioli

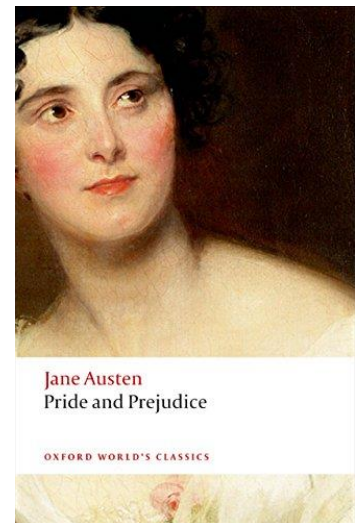
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### COURSE DESCRIPTION

Jane Austen is now firmly established as one of the supreme novelists in the English language. The influential critic F.R. Leavis placed her at the beginning of a “Great Tradition” in the British novel, a highly exclusive club with a total membership of four. Other Austen admirers viewed her instead as the climax of an earlier novelistic tradition dating back to the early eighteenth century. On this view, Austen’s predecessors — or the “early masters of English fiction,” as one critic called them — included Daniel Defoe, Samuel Richardson, Henry Fielding, Tobias Smollett, and Laurence Sterne. Notice that these are all male names. Fair as twentieth-century critics often were to Austen, they also implied that she was the first woman to have written novels worth reading. Today, thanks to decades of hard work by feminist critics, that picture has changed. Scholars of the British novel have come to acknowledge the central role played by earlier women novelists in shaping the conventions that Austen brought to perfection. Austen’s female predecessors, however, remain little known outside specialist circles. This course will introduce you to their work, their accomplishments as novelists, and the range of social and political issues they addressed. We will read novels and proto-novels written by women between 1689 and 1811 (the year of Austen’s first appearance in print). We will begin with shorter fiction by Penelope Aubin, Aphra Behn, and Mary Davys; we will then proceed to novels of manners by Frances Burney and Maria Edgeworth and to Ann Radcliffe’s thrilling Gothic masterpiece *The Mysteries of Udolpho*; and we will close by reading (or re-reading!) Austen’s timeless *Pride and Prejudice*.



## Readings

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We will be working with five required books. You are welcome to use an electronic version should you prefer to do so. In case you decide to buy a hard copy, **please buy the edition listed below**. They are listed in the order in which we'll be reading them.

**1)** *Popular Fiction by Women 1660–1730: and Anthology*, ed. Paula Backscheider and John Richetti (Oxford: OUP, 2009). ISBN: 0198711379.

**2)** Frances Burney, *Evelina*, ed. Edward A. Bloom (Oxford World's Classics, 2008). ISBN: 9780199536931.

**3)** Maria Edgeworth, *Belinda*, ed. Kathryn J. Kirkpatrick (Oxford World's Classics, 2009). ISBN: 9780199554683.

**4)** Ann Radcliffe, *The Mysteries of Udolpho*, ed. Bonamy Dobrée (Oxford World's Classics, 2008). ISBN: 0199537410.

**5)** Jane Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*, ed. Fiona Stafford (Oxford World's Classics, 2008). ISBN: 9780199535569.

## Coursework

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In addition to reading these texts, you will be doing **five kinds of graded work** for this course:

1. Attending and participating in Zoom sessions.
2. Taking quizzes to demonstrate that you have done the readings.
3. Writing weekly responses to the readings.
4. Writing a final essay project.
5. Writing a final paper.

Here are details about each of these components:

### **1. Attendance and participation.**

I will be taking attendance and keeping track of your participation at our class meetings. We are meeting as one group each Tuesday for a 50-minute session. We are also meeting as one group the first Thursday of this semester (January 14), but starting the second week we will split on Thursdays into two separate groups. Group 1 will meet during Period 4 and Group 2 during Period 5. I will let you know which group you are in after the first week of class.

## 2. Quizzes

There will be a total of five multiple-choice quizzes, one on each of the texts we are reading. You will be taking the quizzes on Canvas on specific dates and times, as listed in the Course Schedule (see below). Each quiz will include five multiple choice questions and will be available for a total of five minutes at the end of a class meeting. Because they are designed to test for reading, they will be easy if you have done the readings but difficult otherwise.

## 3. Weekly responses.

Over the course of the semester you will write twelve short responses to the readings (150-200 words). You will post them to discussion threads on Canvas starting the second week of class. I will create the threads, give you instructions, and suggest possible topics for you to write about.

## 4. Essay project.

You will be writing a two-page project outlining a potential topic for your final essay. You will receive detailed instructions on this assignment on Week 4. **February 12 at 11:59 PM.** Late projects will lose a third of a letter grade per day that they are late.

## 5. Final paper.

This will be a 1400-1600-words essay on the topic outlined in your project, or on a different topic should you decide to change. You will receive detailed instructions on this essay on Week 13. **The essay will be due on April 20 at 11:59 PM.** Late essays will lose a third of a letter grade per day that they are late.

# Grading Policy

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Here is how your grades will be calculated. Pay special attention to the first one:

- Your grade for **Attendance and Participation** will take both attendance and participation into account. You begin the semester with 85 points (the equivalent of a B). You then get extra points for participating in class discussion and you lose points for disruptive behavior in class or anything beyond three unexcused absences. Each additional unexcused absence will reduce your A&P score by a third of a letter — for instance, from 88 (B+) to 85 (B).

- When calculating your final grade for the **Quizzes**, I will drop your lowest score. In other words, only your top 4 scores will count towards your final Quiz grade.

- Each **Weekly Response** is worth 10 points, as long as it meets certain basic requirements you will learn about on Week 2. You will write twelve of them and I will drop the lowest two.

These five requirements will be weighted as follows:

Attendance and participation:	20%
Quizzes:	20%
Weekly responses:	20%
Essay project:	20%
Final paper:	20%

Final grades, in turn, will be based on the following scale:

	A	93-100	A-	90-92.9
B+	B	83-86.9	B-	80-82.9
C+	C	73-76.9	C-	70-72.9
D+	D	63-66.9	D-	60-62.9
E		0-59.9		

## COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK	TUESDAY (responses Group 1)	THURSDAY (responses Group 2)
1. Jan 6	NO CLASS	Introduction
2. Jan 11, 13	Penelope Aubin, "The Adventures of the Count de Vinevil" (in <i>Popular Fiction by Women</i> pp. 114-139)	Penelope Aubin, "The Adventures of the Count de Vinevil" (in <i>Popular Fiction by Women</i> pp. 139-151)  Aphra Behn, "The History of the Nun," (in <i>Popular Fiction by Women</i> pp. 1-27)
3. Jan 18, 20	Aphra Behn, "The History of the Nun," (in <i>Popular Fiction by Women</i> pp. 27-42)	<i>Quiz 1</i> Mary Davys, "The Reformed Coquet" (in <i>Popular Fiction by Women</i> pp. 252-275)
4. Jan 25, 27	Mary Davys, "The Reformed Coquet" (in <i>Popular Fiction by Women</i> pp. 275-320)	<i>Quiz 2</i> <b>Instructions on the Essay Project</b> Burney, 3-84 (Beginning to Vol. I, Letter XX)
5. Feb 1, 3	Burney, 85-133 (Vol. I, Letters XXI-XXXI)	Burney, 137-208 (Vol. II, Letters I-XV)
6. Feb 8, 10	Burney, 209-340 (Vol. II, Letter XVI-Vol. III, Letter XIII)	Burney, 340-406 (Vol. III, Letters XIV-XXIII) <b>Essay Project due Saturday, Feb 12, at 11:59 PM.</b>
7. Feb 15, 17	<i>Quiz 3</i> Edgeworth, 1-135 (Ch. I-X)	Edgeworth, 136-234 (Ch. XI-XVII)
8. Feb 22, 24	Edgeworth, 235-361 (Ch. XVIII-XXV)	Edgeworth, 362-478 (Ch. XXVI-XXXI)
9. Mar 1, 3	<i>Quiz 4</i> Radcliffe, 1-102 (Vol. 1, Ch. I-IX)	Radcliffe, 102-181 (Vol. 1, Ch. X-Vol. 2, Ch. II)

<b>10.</b> Mar 15, 17	Radcliffe, 182-295 (Vol. 2, Ch. III-VIII)	Radcliffe, 295-371 (Vol. 2, Ch. IX-Vol. 3, Ch. VIII)
<b>11.</b> Mar 22, 24	<i>Quiz 5</i> Radcliffe, 371-441 (Vol. 3, Ch. IV-VIII)	Radcliffe, 442-511 (Vol. 3, Ch. IX-XIII)
<b>12.</b> Mar 29, 31	Radcliffe, 512-595 (Vol. 4, Ch. I-XI)	Radcliffe, 596-672 (Vol. 4, Ch. XII-XIX)
<b>13.</b> Apr 5, 7	<i>Quiz 6</i> Austen, 1-49 (Vol. 1, Ch. I-XIII)	<b>Instructions on Final Paper</b> Austen, 49-101 (Vol. 1, Ch. XIV-XXIII)
<b>14.</b> Apr 12, 14	Austen, 103-184 (Vol. II)	Austen, 185-298 (Vol. III)
<b>15.</b> Apr 19	<i>Quiz 7</i> Conclusion	<b>Final paper due on April 20, at 11:59 PM.</b>

## ADDITIONAL COURSE POLICY

*Cellphones and computers:* Cellphones are strictly prohibited and should be kept turned off and out of sight during class. Computers are allowed with the wi-fi feature off. You may not access the internet in class, but you may use your computer for taking notes during lecture or for consulting electronic versions of the texts under discussion. Download all internet texts prior to use in class, so you can access them offline. All other uses are prohibited.

*Punctuality:* I will take attendance at the beginning of class. If you are not in class at that point, you will be counted as absent.

*Plagiarism:* All written assignments should be your own work. Plagiarizing the work of others (by copying printed or online sources without acknowledgement) is illegal, and you may fail the course if you plagiarize. If you have questions about how to document your sources, or if you want to make sure you are not committing plagiarism without realizing it, please ask me.

*Special accommodations:* Students with disabilities are encouraged to register with the Office of Student Service in order to determine appropriate accommodation. I will be pleased to provide accommodation, but students are responsible for notifying me at the beginning of the semester.

*Counseling and Mental Health Resources:* Students facing difficulties completing the course or who are in need of counseling or urgent help should call the on-campus Counseling and Wellness Center.

*Sexual Assault and Harassment:* Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are civil rights offenses subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, etc. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can find the appropriate resources here:

[http://www.ufsa.ufl.edu/faculty\\_staff/fees\\_resources\\_policies/addressing\\_sexual\\_misconduct/reporting\\_sexual\\_misconduct/](http://www.ufsa.ufl.edu/faculty_staff/fees_resources_policies/addressing_sexual_misconduct/reporting_sexual_misconduct/)