Instructor: Kate Ozment
Course: ENGL 316
Title: Eighteenth-Century Readings

Description: This course is a broad survey of literature in the long eighteenth century, roughly covering the time between Margaret Cavendish's _The Convent of Pleasure_ and Jane Austen's _Northanger Abbey_. We will read poetry, novels, plays, essays, periodicals, and diaries from writers of English descent and those popular in the English literary market. Through these readings, we explore the broad themes of the Enlightenment, the gothic, the rise of the novel, and the cult of sensibility. Simultaneously, we discuss how changes in the economic culture of England led to increased literacy, consumerism, and the production of print. At the end of the semester, students will write an essay that explores these cultural forces and traces how they impacted authors who wrote for pleasure, fame, commercial interests, abolition, or didactic goals.