Spring 2020 Course Description

Instructor: Yoojung Choi  
Course: ENGL 316  
Title: Eighteenth-Century Literature and Culture

Description: This course is a broad survey of literature in the long eighteenth century, covering the time from the Restoration to the Romantic era. Firstly, students will read and explore literature of this period, including poetry, novels, plays, essays, and periodicals from British writers, including works by Milton, Swift, and Austen. Secondly, students will analyze these texts through a broad range of critical lenses employing historical and material contexts with a focus on race and gender. Readings will be sometimes accompanied by contemporary renditions, such as movie adaptations, to think about the legacy of eighteenth-century culture on the modern popular culture. The course engages multimodal assignments such as commonplace books, digital projects, and visits to the rare book library. Students will write two essays which blend close reading and textual analysis with material, political, or historical context.