

University of Puerto Rico
Río Piedras Campus
College of Humanities
Department of English
Graduate Program in English

INGL 6066, Texts, Authors, and their Critics: The Age of Johnson

Fall term, 2018

Dr. Mark A. Pedreira

Office: Edificio Pedreira, Rm. 2A

Office hours: Tuesday 3:45-4:30 p.m., and by appointment

E-mail: prof.pedreira@gmail.com

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

In this class, we will read the poetry, prose, and criticism of Samuel Johnson, who was the most influential writer in Britain during the second half of the eighteenth century. Special attention will be given to his thoughts on language and the imagination, especially concerning poetic metaphor. To this end, we will examine works that are sometimes ignored in Johnsonian studies, particularly Johnson's edition of Shakespeare (1765) and his renowned *Dictionary of the English Language* (1755, 1st edition; 1773, 4th edit.).

REQUIRED TEXTS:

James Boswell. *The Life of Samuel Johnson*. Ed. Christopher Hibbert. Abridged edition. New York: Penguin Books, 1986. ISBN: 978-0140431162

Samuel Johnson: The Major Works. Ed. Donald Greene. Oxford World's Classics. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000. ISBN: 978-0199538331

Samuel Johnson. *A Dictionary of the English Language: An Anthology*. Ed. David Crystal, 2006. ISBN: 978-0141441573

TEACHING STRATEGIES:

This class includes lecture, dialogue, and student presentations. At the beginning of the semester, students will be given due dates both for their final seminar paper (roughly 15-pages & the "Works Cited" list) and for their two required presentations (which will be short, typewritten essays to be read in class on assigned dates). Note: The **due dates** for a student's **two presentations** are **firm** and cannot be changed, except in cases of illness (or unforeseen emergencies).

LEY 51: Los estudiantes que reciban servicios de Rehabilitación Vocacional deben

comunicarse con el(la) profesor(a) al inicio del semestre para planificar el acomodo razonable y equipo asistivo necesario conforme a las recomendaciones de la Oficina de Asuntos para las Personas con Impedimentos (OAPI) del Decanato de Estudiantes. También aquellos estudiantes con necesidades especiales que requieren de algún tipo de asistencia o acomodo deben comunicarse con el (la) profesor(a).”

ATTENDANCE:

Students are expected to attend class regularly and to come to class on time. **Students should not miss more than one class**, except in cases of medical emergencies.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES:

As much as possible, students should refrain from texting or making or taking phone calls during class. Unless there is an emergency situation, please turn off your phone (or put it on vibration mode) during class.

METHODS OF EVALUATION:

LEY 51: Evaluación diferenciada a estudiantes con necesidades especiales. Esto significa que la evaluación que se utiliza para el estudiante con necesidad especial indentificada, responderá a la necesidad particular del estudiante (eg., prueba oral en lugar de escrita para un estudiante no-vidente).”

Seminar Paper = 80%

Presentations = 10% each (two presentations: 20% total)

A typewritten copy must be given to me before the presentation, and handouts (i.e., an outline, or a page of select quotations) may be given to the entire class at the discretion of the presenter.

COURSE SCHEDULE:

* NOTE: This schedule is subject to revision, given the needs of the class and exigencies of the academic calendar.

AUGUST

8/21 Tues. Introduction

8/28 Tues. No class (Tuesday class counts as a Monday class)

SEPTEMBER

- 9/4 Tues. Samuel Johnson, *The Life of Richard Savage* (**found online: type full title of this work & andromeda.rutgers.edu**); *London*; other select poems (t.b.a.)
- 9/11 Tues. Johnson, *A Journey to the Western Islands of Scotland* (see excerpt in Donald Greene's anthology)
- 9/18 Tues. Johnson, *The Rambler*; Johnson, *The Vanity of Human Wishes*
- 9/25 Tues. Johnson, *The Idler & The Adventurer*

OCTOBER

- 10/2 Tues. Johnson, *The History of Rasselas, Prince of Abyssinia*
- 10/9 Tues. Johnson, *The History of Rasselas, Prince of Abyssinia*
- 10/16 Tues. Johnson, *Preface to Shakespeare* (in D. Greene's anthology) & specimens of annotations in Johnson's edition of Shakespeare (t.b.a.)
- 10/23 Tues. James Boswell, *The Life of Samuel Johnson*
- 10/30 Tues. Boswell, *The Life of Samuel Johnson*

NOVEMBER

- 11/6 Tues. Johnson, "Preface" to *A Dictionary of the English Language* (see both D. Greene anthology & David Crystal's anthology); Johnson, *A Dictionary of the English Language: An Anthology* (edited by David Crystal)
- 11/13 Tues. Johnson, *Lives of the Poets (Life of Milton)*; read John Milton's *Paradise Lost*, Book I
- 11/20 Tues. Johnson, *Lives of the Poets (Life of Cowley & Life of Dryden)*; select poems by Abraham Cowley & John Dryden (t.b.a.)
- 11/27 Tues. Johnson, *Lives of the Poets (Life of Pope)*; select poems by Alexander Pope (t.b.a.)

DECEMBER

- 12/4 Tues. Final business)

SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Barnbrook, Geoff. "Usage Notes in Johnson's *Dictionary*," *International Journal of Lexicography* 18, no. 2 (June 2005): 189–201.

Basney, Lionel. "Narrative and Judgment in the *Life of Savage*," *Biography: An Interdisciplinary Quarterly* 14, no. 2 (Spring 1991): 153–64.

Duncan, Ian. "Adam Smith, Samuel Johnson and the Institutions of English," in *The Scottish Invention of English Literature*, ed. Robert Crawford (Cambridge: Cambridge Univ. Press, 1998), pp. 37–54.

Holmes, Richard. *Dr. Johnson & Mr. Savage*. New York: Vintage, 1996.

Lynch, Jack. "A Bibliography of Johnsonian Studies, 1986–." <http://andromeda.rutgers.edu/~jlynch/Johnson/sjbib.html>. 20 August, 2018.

Talbot, John. "Johnson's Classical Mottoes," *Essays in Criticism* 53, no. 4 (2003): 323–44.

Turnbull, Gordon. "Samuel Johnson's Shakespearean Exit: Emendation and Amendment," in *Editing Lives*, ed. Jesse G. Swan (Lewisburg: Bucknell Univ. Press, 2014), pp. 93–105.

Vance, John A. "Boswell After 200 Years: A Review Essay," *South Atlantic Review* 58, no. 1 (Jan. 1993): 101–9.

Weinbrot, Howard D. "Samuel Johnson and the Domestic Metaphor," *The Age of Johnson: A Scholarly Annual* 10 (1999): 127–63. Reprinted in *Aspects of Samuel Johnson: Essays on His Arts, Mind, Afterlife, and Politics* (Newark: Univ. of Delaware Press, 2005), pp. 146–75.

Wild, Kate. "Ludicrous Exaggerations and Colloquial Licenses: 'Prescriptive' Labels in Samuel Johnson's *A Dictionary of the English Language*," in "*Cunning Passages, Contrived Corridors*": *Unexpected Essays in the History of Lexicography*, ed. Michael Adams (Monza, Italy: Polimetrica, 2010), pp. 165–85.

The Yale Digital Edition of the Works of Samuel Johnson. <http://www.yalejohnson.com/frontend/>. 20 August, 2018.