

Writing the Body, 1690-1800: Gender, Race, and Power

Module convenor: Dr Amy Prendergast (Prendea1@tcd.ie)

Lecturers: Prof Aileen Douglas, Dr Amy Prendergast

ECTS weighting: 5

Year: SF

Term taught: Michaelmas Term

Assessment: Essay

Module Description:

This module explores the eighteenth century's fascination with the body and constructions of the self by considering literary representations of the body. Ideals of beauty will be examined, as well as anxieties surrounding sexuality and the roles of both men and women. The module will also investigate material considerations, reflecting on clothing and disguise. Slavery, incarceration, and the body in pain are particular concerns in writing from this period, and theories engaging with class and race will inform our analysis of social relationships and power structures. This module will explore the eighteenth-century body across a range of genres, engaging with novels, poetry, and drama.

Module Outline:

1. Introduction: The Body in the Long Eighteenth Century (AD & AP)
2. The Enslaved Body I: Aphra Behn, *Oroonoko* (1688) (AP)
3. The Anguished Body: Alexander Pope, *Eloisa to Abelard* (1717) (AD)
4. Illness and the Body: Daniel Defoe, *Journal of the Plague Year* (1722) (AD)
5. The Repulsive Body: Jonathan Swift, *Gulliver's Travels* (1726) (AP)
6. Clothing the Body: selected Poetry by Mary Barber & Laetitia Pilkington; selections from Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, *Turkish Embassy Letters* (AD)
7. Reading Week
8. Staging the Body: Oliver Goldsmith, *She Stoops to Conquer* (1773) (AP)
9. The Military Body: Tobias Smollett, excerpts from *Roderick Random* and *Humphry Clinker* (AD)
10. The Sexual Body: Elizabeth Inchbald, *A Simple Story* (1791) (AD)
11. The Enslaved Body II: Selections from Olaudah Equiano, *Interesting Narrative* (1789) (AP)
12. The Maternal/Incarcerated Body: Mary Wollstonecraft, *Maria, or The Wrongs Of Woman* (1798) (AP)

Primary Texts:

Aphra Behn, *Oroonoko, and Other Writings*. Ed. Paul Salzman. OUP, 2009

Daniel Defoe, *Journal of a Plague Year*. Ed. Louis Landa and David Roberts. OUP, 2010.

Olaudah Equiano, *The Interesting Narrative and Other Writings*. Ed. Vincent Carretta. Penguin, 2003

Elizabeth Inchbald, *A Simple Story*. Ed. J. M. S. Tompkins. OUP, 2009

Jonathan Swift, *Gulliver's Travels*. Ed. Claude Rawson and Ian Higgins. OUP, 2008

Mary Wollstonecraft, *Mary, and The Wrongs Of Woman*. Ed. Gary Kelly. OUP, 2009

Additional primary texts will be available via Blackboard, or through the library databases.