Area 5: Restoration and 18th-Century British Literature

Primary Texts

1) Drama

William Wycherley, The Country Wife (1675)
Aphra Behn, The Rover (1677)
John Dryden, All for Love (1677)
Thomas Otway, Venice Preserved (1682)
William Congreve, The Way of the World (1700)
Richard Steele, The Conscious Lovers (1722)
John Gay, The Beggar’s Opera (1728)
George Lillo, The London Merchant (1731)
Oliver Goldsmith, She Stoops to Conquer (1773) or
Richard Brinsley Sheridan, The School For Scandal (1777)
Frances Burney, The Witlings (1778-1780)

2) Verse

John Dryden, “Astraea Redux” (1660); “To my Honored Friend, Dr. Charleton...” (1663); Annus Mirabilis (1667); “Absalom and Achitophel” (1681); “Mac Flecknoe” (1684); “To the Pious Memory of . . . Anne Killigrew” (1685); “A Song for St. Cecilia’s Day” (1687)

John Wilmot, Earl of Rochester, “A Satire Against Reason and Mankind” (1679); “The Imperfect Enjoyment”; “The Disabled Debauchee”; “A Ramble in St. James Park” (1680)

Aphra Behn, “The Disappointment” (1680); “The Golden Age”; “On Her Loving Two Equally” (1684), “To the Fair Clarinda”; “On Desire” (1688)

Daniel Defoe, The True-Born Englishman [selections from Part I and Part II] (1700)

Anne Finch, Countess of Winchilsea, “The Spleen” (1701); “A Nocturnal Reverie”; “To the Nightingale” (1713)

Mary, Lady Chudleigh, “To the Ladies”; “To Almystrea” (1703)

Alexander Pope, An Essay on Criticism (1709); “Windsor Forest” (1713); “The Rape of the Lock”; “Eloisa to Abelard”; “Epistle to Miss Blount” (1717); An Essay on Man
(1733), “An Epistle from Mr. Pope to Dr. Arbuthnot”; “Epistle 2. To a Lady” (1735), *The Dunciad in Four Books* [cf. 1728 ed. in 3 Books] (1743)

**Jonathan Swift**, “A Description of a City Shower” (1710); “On Stella’s Birth-Day 1719”, “Stella’s Birth-Day 1727” (1728); “Verses on the Death of Dr. Swift” (1731); “The Lady’s Dressing Room” (1732); Miss W—, “The Gentleman’s Study, In Answer the Lady’s Dressing Room” (1732); “A Beautiful Young Nymph Going to Bed” (1734),

**John Gay**, Trivia; or, the Art of Walking the Streets in London (1716)

**James Thomson**, from *Winter. A Poem* (1726); from *The Seasons* [“Autumn”] (1730); “Rule Britannia!” (1740)

**Stephen Duck**, from “The Thresher’s Labour” (1736)

**Mary Collier**, “The Woman’s Labour: To Mr. Stephen Duck” (1739)

**William Collins**, “Ode on the Poetical Character”; “Ode to Fear”; “Ode to Evening” (1747)

**Thomas Gray**, “Ode on a Distant Prospect of Eton College” (1747); “Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard” (1751); “Sonnet on the Death of Richard West” (1775)

**Samuel Johnson**, “The Vanity of Human Wishes” (1749)

**Mary Leapor**, “Crumble-Hall” (1751)

**Christopher Smart**, from *Jubilate Agno* [“Animals in Language”, “My Cat Jeoffry”] (c.1758-63)

**Oliver Goldsmith**, *The Deserted Village* (1770)

**Hannah More**, from Sensibility: A Poetical Epistle (1782)

**George Crabbe**, from *The Village* (1783)

**Charlotte Smith**, from Elegiac Sonnets [e.g., at least 1-12, 29, 44, 57, 62, 67, 76] (1784-97)

**William Cowper**, from *The Task* [sections of Bk.1, Bk.3, and Bk.4] (1785), “Sweat Meat has Sour Sauce” (1788); “The Negro’s Complaint” (1789), “The Castaway” (1799)

**Ann Yearsley**, “On Mrs. Montagu” (1785); “Addressed to Sensibility”; “To Indifference” (1787)

**Helen Maria Williams**, “To Sensibility” (1786), “To Dr. Moore, in Answer to a Poetical
Epistle...” (1792)

*William Wordsworth*, “Sonnet, on Seeing Miss Helen Maria Williams Weep at a Tale of Distress” (1787)

*William Blake*, *Songs of Innocence* (1789), *The Marriage of Heaven and Hell* (1790), *Songs of Experience* (1794)

*Anna Laetitia Barbauld*, “The Mouse’s Petition” (1792) “Washing Day” (c.1797)

*Mary Robinson*, *Sappho to Phaon* (1796)

3) Prose

Life-Writing

*Samuel Pepys*, from Diary [Coronation of Charles II (April 1661); The Plague Year (June-Sept. 1665); The Great Fire (Sept. 1666); The Deb Willet Affair (Oct.-Nov. 1668)]

*John Bunyan*, *The Pilgrim’s Progress* (1678)

*Lady Mary Wortley Montagu*, from *The Turkish Embassy Letters* [“On the Turkish Baths” (April 1717); “On Turkish Dress” (April 1717); “To Pope” (Nov. 1718); “On Her Granddaughter” (Jan. 1753)]

*Colley Cibber*, from *An Apology for the Life of Mr. Colley Cibber* (1740)

James Boswell, selections from *The Life of Samuel Johnson, LL.D.* (1763; pub. 1791); From *London Journal* [A Scot in London (1762); Louisa (1763); First Meeting with Johnson (1762-1763); Entries on MacHeath (1763)]

*Olaudah Equiano*, *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano* (1789)

*Frances Burney*, from Journals and Letters [selections, incl. March 22, (The Mastectomy)] (1812)

Periodical Essays

*Jeremy Collier*, from *A Short View of the Immorality and Profaneness of the English Stage* (1698)

*Addison & Steele*, from The Spectator [including #11, 57, 66, 182, 189, 203, 261, 266, 276] (1711)

*[Eliza Haywood, ed.]* from *The Female Spectator* [including Vol.1, No.1; Vol.2, No.10] (1744-46)
Samuel Johnson, from *The Rambler* [including #4, 5, 60, 170, 171, 207]; from *The Idler* [including #31, 32, 77, 84, 97] (1750-1760)

**Literary Criticism**

**John Dryden**, *An Essay of Dramatic Poesy* (1668)

**Samuel Johnson**, from *The Works of William Shakespeare*” (1765)

**Philosophy and Politics**

**John Locke**, from *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding* [“On Ideas”, “On Identity” (1689)]; *Two Treatises on Government* (1690)

**Mary Astell**, from *A Serious Proposal to the Ladies* (1694); from *Some Reflections upon Marriage* (1700)

**Mary, Lady Chudleigh**, The Ladies Defence (1701)

**Daniel Defoe**, *The Shortest Way with Dissenters* (1702)


**Bernard Mandeville**, from *A Modest Defense of Public Stews* (1724)

**Samuel Johnson**, from *A Dictionary of the English Language* [“Preface” and various entries] (1755)

**Adam Smith**, *The Theory of Moral Sentiment* (1761)

**David Hume**, from *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding* (1772)


**Anna Letitia Barbauld**, “On the Pleasure Derived from Objects of Terror; with ‘Sir Bertrand’…” (1773)

**Maria Edgeworth**, selections from *Letters for Literary Ladies* (1795); “On Sympathy and Sensibility” (1798)
Mary Robinson, “Preface” to *Sappho to Phaon* (1796)

Hannah More, “On the Danger of an Ill-Directed Sensibility” (1799); sel. from Cheap Repository Tracts

William Wordsworth, “Preface” to Lyrical Ballads (1800; 1802)

**The Revolution Debates**

Helen Maria Williams, from *Letters Written in France* (1790-93)

Edmund Burke, from *Reflections on the Revolution in France* (1790)

Thomas Paine, from *The Rights of Man* (1791)

Mary Wollstonecraft, from *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* (1792)

**4) Fiction**

Margaret Cavendish, Duchess of Newcastle, *The Blazing World* (1666)

Aphra Behn, *Oroonoko; The Fair Jilt* (1688)

Delarivier Manley, from *The New Atlantis* (1709)

Daniel Defoe, *Robinson Crusoe* (1719)

Eliza Haywood, *Love In Excess* (1719-20) or *Fantomina* (1724)

Daniel Defoe, *Moll Flanders* (1722) or *Roxana* (1724)

Jonathan Swift, *Gulliver’s Travels* (1726)

Samuel Richardson, *Pamela* (1740-1) or *Clarissa* (1747-8)

Henry Fielding, *Shamela* (1741), *Joseph Andrews* (1742) or *Tom Jones* (1749)

Charlotte Lennox, *The Female Quixote* (1752)

Samuel Johnson, *The History of Rasselas, Prince of Abyssinia* (1759)


Frances Sheridan, *The Memoirs of Miss Sidney Bidulph* (1761)

Horace Walpole, *The Castle of Otranto* (1764)


Tobias Smollett, *Humphrey Clinker* (1771)

Frances Burney, *Evelina* (1778)

Sarah Scott, *Millenium Hall* (1778)
Elizabeth Inchbald, *A Simple Story* (1791)
Charlotte Smith, *Desmond* (1792)
Mary Wollstonecraft, *Maria; or, The Wrongs of Woman* (1798)
William Godwin, *Caleb Williams* (1794)
Ann Radcliffe, *The Mysteries of Udolpho* (1794) or *The Italian* (1797)
Matthew Lewis, *The Monk* (1796)
Maria Edgeworth, *Castle Rackrent* (1800), *Belinda* (1801)

**Secondary Texts**

Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*

Srinivas Aravamudan, *Tropicopolitans: Colonialism and Agency, 1688-1804*

Ros Ballaster, *Seductive Forms: Women’s Amatory Fiction from 1684 to 1740*

G. J. Barker-Benfield, *The Culture of Sensibility: Sex and Sensibility in Eighteenth-Century Britain*

John Bender, *Imagining the Penitentiary: Fiction and the Architecture of Mind in Eighteenth-Century England*

Laura Brown, *Fables of Modernity: Literature and Culture in Eighteenth-Century England*

Douglas Canfield, *Tricksters and Estates: On the Ideology of Restoration Comedy*

Terry Castle, *Masquerade and Civilization: The Carnivalesque in Eighteenth-Century English Culture & Fiction*

Linda Colley, *Britons: Forging the Nation, 1707-1837*

Margaret Doody, *The Daring Muse: Augustan Poetry Reconsidered*

Lynn Festa, *Sentimental Figures of Empire in Eighteenth-Century Britain and France*

Lisa Freeman, *Character’s Theatre: Genre and Identity on the Eighteenth-Century English Stage*

Catherine Gallagher, *Nobody’s Story: The Vanishing Acts of Women Writers in the Marketplace, 1670-1820*

Harriet Guest, *Small Change: Women, Learning, Patriotism, 1750-1810*
Jurgen Habermas, *The Structural Transformation of the Public Sphere*

George Haggerty, *Men in Love: Masculinity and Sexuality in the Eighteenth Century*

J. Paul Hunter, *Before Novels: The Cultural Contexts of Eighteenth-Century English Fiction*


Deidre Lynch, *The Economy of Character: Novels, Market Culture, and the Business of Inner Meaning*

Gerald MacLean, *Culture and Society in the Stuart Restoration*

Jerome McGann, *The Poetics of Sensibility: A Revolution in Literary Style*

Michael McKeon, *The Origins of English Novel, 1600-1740*

Felicity Nussbaum, *The Limits of the Human: Fictions of Anomaly, Race, and Gender in the Long Eighteenth Century*

Karen O’Brien, *Women and Enlightenment in Eighteenth-Century Britain*

J. G. A. Pocock, *Virtue, Commerce, and History*

Joseph Roach, *Cities of the Dead: Circum-Atlantic Performance*

John Richetti, *The English Novel in History: 1700-1780*

Katharine Rogers, *Feminism in Eighteenth-Century England*

Lawrence Stone, *The Family, Sex, and Marriage in England, 1500-1800*

Clifford Siskin, *The Work of Writing: Literature and Social Change in Britain, 1700-1830*

Patricia Spacks, *Desire and Truth: Functions of Plot in Eighteenth-Century English Novels*

Kristina Straub, *Sexual Suspects: Eighteenth-Century Players and Sexual Ideology*

James Thompson, *Models of Value: Eighteenth-Century Political Economy and the Novel*

Cynthia Wall, *The Literary and Cultural Spaces of Restoration London*

William Warner, *Licensing Entertainment: The Elevation of Novel Reading in Britain, 1684-1750*

Ian Watt, *The Rise of the Novel: Studies in Defoe, Richardson, and Fielding*
Jeremy Webster, *Performing Libertinism is Charles II’s Court*

Harold Weinbrot, *Brittania’s Issue: The Rise of British Literature from Dryden to Ossian Various Histories*


Kathleen Wilson, *The Sense of the People: Politics, Culture, and Imperialism in England, 1715-1785*

Jeremy Black and Roy Porter (eds.), *The Penguin Dictionary of Eighteenth-Century History* (A very useful resource containing a year-by-year chronology, maps, dynastic charts, and a list for further reading.)

Roy Porter, *English Society in the Eighteenth Century [1688-1802]* (*This is the standard, short introductory social history to the period and an excellent place to start.*)

**Core List: Primary Sources**

1) **John Dryden**, “Astraea Redux” (1660); “To my Honored Friend, Dr. Charleton...” (1663); *Annus Mirabilis* (1667); *An Essay of Dramatic Poesy* (1668); “Absalom and Achitophel” (1681); “Mac Flecknoe” (1684); “To the Pious Memory of . . . Anne Killigrew” (1685); “A Song for St. Cecilia’s Day” (1687)

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5) **Alexander Pope**, *An Essay on Criticism* (1709); “Windsor Forest” (1713); “The Rape of the Lock”; “Eloisa to Abelard”; “Epistle to Miss Blount” (1717); *An Essay on Man* (1733), “An Epistle from Mr. Pope to Dr. Arbuthnot”; “Epistle 2. To a Lady” (1735), *The Dunciad in Four Books* [cf. 1728 ed. in 3Books] (1743)

6) **Jonathan Swift**, *A Tale of a Tub; The Battle of the Books* (1704), *Gulliver’s Travels* (1726), *A Modest Proposal* (1729), “Verses on the Death of Dr. Swift” (1731); “The Lady’s Dressing Room” (1732); Miss W—, “The Gentleman’s Study, In answer the Lady’s Dressing Room” (1732); “A Beautiful Young Nymph Going to Bed” (1734),
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8) Thomas Gray, “Ode on a Distant Prospect of Eton College” (1747); “Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard” (1751); “Sonnet on the Death of Richard West” (1775)

9) Daniel Defoe, Robinson Crusoe (1719)

10) Eliza Haywood, Love In Excess (1719-20)

11) Samuel Richardson, Pamela (1740-1)

12) Henry Fielding, Shamela (1741), Joseph Andrews (1742)

13) Laurence Sterne, Tristram Shandy (1759-67)

14) Frances Burney, Evelina (1778)

15) William Godwin, Caleb Williams (1794)

16) Ann Radcliffe, The Mysteries of Udolpho (1794)

17) Drama

    William Wycherley, The Country Wife (1675)
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    John Gay, The Beggar’s Opera (1728)
    Richard Brinsley Sheridan, The School For Scandal (1777)

18) Political and Periodical Essay

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