

2026 Fall

ENGL 2362 World Literature through The Renaissance

Section: 061

Professor: Dr. June Oh

Email: joh@uttyler.edu

Office Hours: Wednesday 10-1, and by appointment (See Canvas for Zoon link)

Course Times: Online Asynchronous

Course Information

Classical to early eighteenth-century world literary figures not covered in ENGL 2322 or ENGL 2323, with special attention given to multi-continental and intercontinental literature. Periods and writers covered vary from year to year.

Course Overview

Early Fiction in Context: "True Crime," 1722 edition

This course examines the emergence of early English fiction through a single, influential text: Daniel Defoe's *Moll Flanders* (1722). Reading one novel across an entire semester is a tremendous act of exploration. It allows us to slow down and to practice close reading, to trace narrative patterns as they unfold, and to situate a text within the history and culture that shaped the narrative. In other words, we will approach *Moll Flanders* as a historical archive shaped by the social, economic, gendered, and moral pressures of the early eighteenth century that still has a lot to tell us. By returning to *Moll Flanders* week after week, we will see how a novel is not a static object but a living artifact whose meanings shift depending on the questions we ask.

Just like today's social-media platforms, the eighteenth-century novel was itself a form of new media that transformed how people consumed stories. It was a sensation hailed for its power in moral instruction yet criticized for its potential to corrupt readers. *Moll Flanders* sits at the center of this debate, embodying both the promise and the anxiety of a rapidly changing media landscape.

We will explore how early modern storytelling strategies such as raw confession, cliff-hanger plots, emotional intimacy—anticipate today's true-crime genre long before Netflix or TikTok existed. By tracking these storytelling moves across time, this course shows how an old work like *Moll Flanders* shapes our feeds today.

Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Describe key historical, cultural, and aesthetic contexts shaping the early eighteenth-century fiction.
2. Analyze the formal features, narrative techniques, and thematic concerns of *Moll Flanders*. In other words, students will practice breaking down a text's rhetorical strategies such as voice, structure, imagery, language, perspective, tone, etc. to identify how these choices shape meaning.
3. Contribute thoughtfully and respectfully to an online learning community.

4. Create original interpretations that connect eighteenth-century literature to contemporary issues and media.

Required Textbooks and Readings

Required Textbook:

- Daniel Defoe, *Moll Flanders* (Oxford World's Classics), Oxford University Press.
- Additional readings posted on Canvas

Special Course Note:

Technology

- Students are required to have reliable access to a laptop and the Internet. Students are responsible for staying updated with course schedules, announcements, and materials. For technical issues, contact Canvas or UT Tyler "Help Now."
- Students are expected to maintain regular communication with the instructor throughout the semester.

Tips for Success

1. **Read and write.** This is a literature course. You will be reading and writing a lot. And to state the obvious, that takes time. Find your joy and its beauty in that.
2. **Engage, deeply.** The online nature of this class will push you to take an active role in the learning process. You will do this by thinking deeply and collaborate with the readings, the instructor, and other students' ideas on all assignments—beyond what is "required."
3. **Use Canvas notification settings but don't trust it to do *your* job.** Canvas can ensure you receive timely notifications in your email or via text ([Canvas Notification Guide](#)). Note that some assignments like the discussion posts and responses have "hidden" due dates. Buy a planner or keep a digital calendar to help manage your workload.
4. **Ask for help.** If you have questions or concerns, I expect you to reach out to me or your classmates for support. I am happy to help.

Course Grade

Component	points
Final Exam	20
Discussions	60
"Into New Feeds"; 18C Memes	20
Total	100

Grade Scale

A	90 to	100	points
B	80 to	89	points
C	70 to	79	points
D	60 to	69	points

F 0 to 59 points

Minimum Requirement to Earn a C in the Class

To earn a C or above in the class, students must earn a C or above on all components.

Syllabus Changes

Per the UTT Syllabus Policy: "The information contained in the syllabus, other than the grading criteria and absence and make-up policies, may be subject to change with reasonable advance notice as long as the change is without prejudice to the students." See our class Canvas for course schedule.

Important Dates

August 24	Classes begin
October 30	Last day to withdraw
November 23-27	Thanksgiving
December 7-11	Final week

Public Writing

All writing in the class is public writing. As a class, and in small groups, we may discuss what is working in student papers and areas for improvement. If you would like me to not use a particular draft in class, please let me know.

Major Assignments

All writings done in this class are public and can be publicly shared. Contact the instructor if you have any issues.

Final Exam (20%) The exam will assess: knowledge of course materials and historical contexts, understanding of *Moll Flanders* and related readings, engagement with class discussions, students' own evolving understanding of the meaning and purpose of literature. The exam may include short answers, close-reading analysis, and reflective components.

Discussion (60%) Students will complete three discussion responses. One response is required for all students, and students may choose two additional responses from four available options. An extra-credit response opportunity will be offered later in the semester. All discussion responses must be submitted as video recordings and must meet the posted requirements. Responses that do not follow the assignment requirements will not receive a grade.

"Into New Feeds" 18C Memes (20%) Students will create a meme that connects *Moll Flanders* to contemporary culture. Include a short rationale explaining your interpretive choices.

Important Policies and Resources

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all class sessions. In an online setting, this means completing assigned tasks. Students who miss more than three weeks' work (e.g., missing discussion, due dates, etc.) will automatically fail the course unless they withdraw by the census date. See "Standard UT Tyler Syllabus Policies" for information on the census date.

Submitting Written Work

To be counted for a grade, written work must be submitted (unless instructed otherwise) via Canvas. Assignments that do not follow the designated format, that are emailed, that are submitted to the wrong drop box, or that I cannot open (e.g., zipped files, ios files, .pages files, damaged files) will receive 0.

Late Work

Any assignments submitted after the deadline will receive a 15% deduction for each day they are late.

Academic Dishonesty & Disruptive Behavior

This class has a **Zero Tolerance Policy** for academic dishonesty. Any act of academic dishonesty will result in immediate failure of the entire course and will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Intervention.

For the UTT definition of “academic dishonesty,” go to the UT Tyler Syllabus Module in the class Canvas shell. Click on “University Policies and Information.” Scroll to the “Academic Honesty and Academic Misconduct” section. Click on “Student Conduct and Discipline policy.” Read Section 8-802 “Academic Dishonesty.”

Disruptive behavior will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Intervention and may result in failing the class and/or University sanction. Disruptive behavior includes, but is not limited to:

- hindering other students from working on the tangible learning activities taking place during face-to-face and online class sessions
- talking when the instructor is talking
- repeatedly arriving late and/or leaving early
- using technology for purposes other than working on the tangible learning activities taking place during the class period
- doing something other than working on the tangible learning activities taking place during the class period
- sleeping during class

For the UTT definition of “disruptive behavior,” go to the UT Tyler Syllabus Module in the class Canvas shell. Click on “University Policies and Information.” Scroll to the “Academic Honesty and Academic Misconduct” section. Click on “Student Conduct and Discipline policy.” Scroll to Section 8-804 “Certain Other Offenses.” Read item number four “Disruptive Behavior.”

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) USE POLICY

UT Tyler is committed to exploring and using artificial intelligence (AI) tools as appropriate for the discipline and task undertaken. We encourage discussing AI tools’ ethical, societal, philosophical, and disciplinary implications. All uses of AI should be acknowledged as this aligns with our commitment to honor and integrity, as noted in UT Tyler’s Honor Code. Faculty and students must not use protected information, data, or copyrighted materials when using any AI tool. Additionally, users should be aware that AI tools rely on predictive models to generate content that may appear correct but is sometimes shown to be incomplete, inaccurate, taken without attribution from other sources, and/or biased. Consequently, an AI tool should not be considered a substitute for traditional approaches to research. You are ultimately responsible for the quality and content of the information you submit. Misusing AI tools that violate the guidelines specified for this course (see below) is considered a breach of academic integrity. The student will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in UT Tyler’s Academic Integrity Policy.

For this course, I expect all work students submit for this course to be their own. While using artificial intelligence assistance can aid various parts of the writing and analysis process such as brainstorming, managing and analyzing data, editing, and peer review, this course is not the place to experiment with it. In other words, any unacknowledged AI-facilitated work will be considered cheating and will be directly reported. Violation of this policy may result in disciplinary action, up to and including full revocation of credit for the assignment, and other sanctions.

Class Conduct

All students are expected to behave in a respectful manner, both in-person and online. Sensitive topics may be addressed during discussion, and passionate opinions are welcome. However, each student should remain

respectful and civil. We will approach topics with an understanding of their historical context and cultural nuances, recognizing that some issues may be uncomfortable from a modern perspective.

Contacting the instructor

If you have individual questions, you can set up a time to meet either in-person or via Zoom.

To contact me, use UTT email or Canvas messenger. Per the [UTT Email Policy](#), I will not reply to emails sent from non-UTT email addresses.

Emails and Canvas messages should provide a succinct overview of the topic and be written using complete sentences, reasonably correct grammar, and proper structure. In the subject line list the class (ENGL4374), your name, and a topic.

Course Schedule

This class has a flexible schedule and content that may change depending on class progress and student interests. See Syllabus Change policy.

Week	Theme	Assignments
1 (Aug 24–30)	What Is a Novel?	Response 1: required
2 (Sept 1–7)	Survival Kit 101: Gender and Social Mobility as Strategy	
3 (Sept 8–14)		Response 2
4 (Sept 15–21)	Love, Money, Hustle: Capitalism Before Capitalism	
5 (Sept 22–28)		Response 3
6 (Sept 29–Oct 5)	True Crime, 1722 Edition: Confession as Entertainment	
7 (Oct 6–12)		Response 4
8 (Oct 13–19)	Clickbait Before the Internet: Print Culture & Sensation	
9 (Oct 20–26)		Response 5
10 (Oct 27–Nov 2)	Check-In	Optional meetings
11 (Nov 3–9)	Sinner Survivor Morality debate	Response 6: extra point only
12 (Nov 10–16)	Into New Feeds: Remixing Moll for Gen Z	Meme & Rationale
13 (Nov 17–23)		Respond to meme
14 (Nov 24–30)	Thanksgiving	
15 (Dec 1–7)	Final Exam	Final Exam

University Policies and Information

Go to our class Canvas for information relating University Policies.

Student Resources

Go to our class Canvas for information relating University Policies.

This syllabus is a product of many educators' hard work, generosity, and support along with my ChatGPT "dummy." I give special thanks to UT Tyler's English department faculties, staff, and students as well as my former colleagues at Michigan State University.