

Early History of the Novel (En 122)
Prof. Kristine Haugen
Spring 2022

Reading schedule and course requirements

This class reveals to you what kinds of stories were written in Europe and England before the rise of the “realistic” novels that are almost universal today. Fantastic, metaphorical, adventurous, and even religious, these early novels covered a far broader range of human experience than the later “realistic” novels, in part because they depended so much more on imagination and the author’s ingenuity.

We will use the evidence of these early novels themselves to theorize about what kinds of tastes and preferences their original audiences may have had. You can also consider whether today’s “fantasy” literature, like *Harry Potter* or *The Lord of the Rings*, is secretly drawing on this much earlier tradition.

Immediately below is a schedule of our readings. After that, I discuss the course requirements (you will probably need to buy paper copies of at least a few of our nine books; there are no long papers; there is a weekly online discussion forum; everyone participates in discussion in class).

Please email me before registration (haugen@caltech.edu) if you have any additional questions. If I think the answers would be interesting to others, I will add them to this page.

Monday, March 28

Introduction: Novels before Realism

Monday, April 4

Heliiodorus, *Ethiopian Romance* (4th century A.D.), books 1-5, pp. 1-140

Due: Problem 1

Monday, April 11

Lodovico Ariosto, *Orlando Goes Mad* (1516), cantos 1-8 (pp. 1-81) and 10-11 (pp. 92-116), followed by three short episodes from later in the poem: Orlando goes mad (pp. 278-84), the nasty Rodomont and further madness of Orlando (pp. 334-62), Astolfo in Ethiopia (pp. 408-21)

Due: Problem 2

Monday, April 18

François Rabelais, *Gargantua* (1534), pp. 209-307 (chs. 1-30), pp. 313-36 (chs. 32-36), and pp. 353-59 (chs. 47-49)

Due: Problem 3

Monday, April 25

Miguel de Cervantes, *Don Quixote*, selection from Book 1 (1605)

Due: Problem 4

Monday, May 2

John Bunyan, *The Pilgrim's Progress* (1678), part 1, pp. 11-165 (the original publication)

Due: Problem 5

Monday, May 9

Daniel Defoe, *Robinson Crusoe* (1719), pp. 1-96 and 128-91

Due: Problem 6

Monday, May 16

Samuel Richardson, *Pamela, or, Virtue Rewarded* (1740), pp. 11-27 (letters #1-12), 75-131 (letter #29 to the end of Thursday), 161-93, 211-19, 228-71, 443-52, 500-3

Due: Problem 7

Monday, May 23

Laurence Sterne, *Tristram Shandy* (1759-1767), pp. 5-12 (chs. 1-7), 43-63 (chs. 19-25), 165-89 (chs. 24-39), 269-325 (chs. 32-43), 386-391 (chs. 2-6), 435-539 (chs. 1-33)

2- to 3-page final project on *Robinson Crusoe* is due; continuing students exchange final projects.
Last day of class for seniors.

Monday, May 30

Denis Diderot, *The Nun*

2- to 3-page response component of final project is due (not for seniors).

Course activities:

(1) I am researching whether the Caltech library will be able to obtain site licenses for e-books of our readings. For some of our books, though, you will probably need to buy your own electronic or paper copy.

(2) There are no long papers in this class. Instead, there is a 1- to 2-page homework every week (the weekly "Problem") for most of the term. Then, at the end of the term, you'll write a 2- or 3-page response to a long student paper from the past, and, during finals week, a 2- to 3-page reply to a different response from a classmate this year's classmates.

(3) You'll need to post twice each week before class on a Canvas discussion forum. You can say anything you like related to the book or inspired by the book.

(4) This is not a lecture course. You should plan to speak at least twice every evening.