

**Course title (English):** Rise of the 18<sup>th</sup>-Century Novel

**Course title (Hebrew):** עליית הרומן במאה ה-18

**Course number:** 132.2.0229+132.2.0239

**Course slot (semester/s, weekday/s, hours):** Yearly, Thursdays, 14:15

**Lecturer:** Dr. Ron Ben-Tovim

**Lecturer's conference hour and contact details:** Office Hours by appointment.

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**Course description & objectives:**

The rise of the New Sciences in seventeenth-century England brought about the phasing out of several long-standing religious, political, and philosophical traditions. From the expunging of Aristotelian physics to the radicalization of English Protestantism and the bolstering of constitutional monarchy, the intellectual landscape of England was swiftly changing. The seminar will look at the way the competing notions of science and tradition manifest themselves in the work of contemporary writers such as Daniel Defoe, Jonathan Swift, Alexander Pope, and others. Readings will also include a selection of contemporary philosophers such as John Locke, George Berkeley, and Thomas Hobbes, Giambattista Vico, and more.

**Course requirements:**

**Grade Distribution:**

Attendance 10 &

Participation and short responses 20%

Assignments 20&

Final Paper 50%

- *Come prepared.* The first and most important condition for enjoying this course and doing well in it is to read the assigned material in time for our meetings. We will explore some of the greatest literary works ever written, but reading them demands effort – time, as well as patience. Whether it's Swift or Wordsworth, it's always a good idea to look up words that you do not understand and read the notes and comments provided in the various editions.

Assignments

- **Before each class** you will be required to submit a short response, question, or insight in a designated area on the course's Moodle.

- You will be asked to hand in two short assignments, one per semester.

- In accordance with departmental policy, a full seminar paper is 15-20 pages long, while a final paper is around 10 pages.

- All work must be your own original writing. *Plagiarism will not be tolerated.*

### **Primary Texts**

Daniel Defoe, *Robinson Crusoe*

Daniel Defoe, *Moll Flanders*

Jonathan Swift, *A Tale of a Tub* and "A Discourse on the Mechanical Operations of the Spirit"

Jonathan Swift, *Gulliver's Travels*

Alexander Pope, selected poetry.

### **Other Readings**

Francis Bacon, selections from *Novum Organum*

John Locke, selections from *An Essay on Human Understanding*

Thomas Hobbes, selections from *A Treatise of Human Nature*

Jonathan Swift, "Battle of the Books"

George Berkeley, selections from *The Analyst*

Giambattista Vico, selections from *The New Science*

### **Topics & bibliography (subject to change, according to the needs of the course)**

#### **First Semester**

27.10 Battle of the Ancients and Moderns: **Nature**

3.11 The New Sciences **Locke**, Book 1, Introduction, Book 2, 29-32; **Bacon** Preface and Book I, aphorisms 1-23; Book II, aphorisms 1-3; **Hobbes**, "Introduction," "Of Senses," and "Of Imagination."

10.11 The New Sciences – Cont. Jones, "Of Ancients and Moderns."

17.11 Rise of the novel, Ian Watt, "Realism and the Novel"; Virginia Woolf – "Robinson Crusoe."

24.11 Intro to *Robinson Crusoe*.

1.12 *Robinson Crusoe*; **midterm assignment given**

8.12 *Robinson Crusoe*; Sarah Tindall Kareem, "Rethinking the Real with Robinson Crusoe."

15.12 *Moll Flanders*, **midterm assignment due**

22.12 *Moll Flanders*; Larry Langford, "Moll's Preface."

29.12 *Moll Flanders*

5.1 *Moll Flanders*

12.1 The afterlife of the Moderns (Marx, "Theses on Feuerbach"; Frege, "Sense and Reference").

19.1 Conclusion

## Second Semester

- 9.3 Battle of the Ancients and Moderns: **Tradition**
- 16.3 Vico, from *The New Science* (73-81); Berkeley, *Principles of Human Knowledge* (§1–10; §110– §117); William Temple, from "Of Ancient and Modern Learning" 2–8; 16–19; 25–6; "Of Poetry," 47–53.
- 23.3 Tradition, cont.
- 30.3 Swift, "Battle of the Books"
- 28.3 Swift, *A Tale of a Tub*
- 6.4 **Passover Break**
- 13.4 *A Tale of a Tub*; Miriam Starkman, from *Swift's Satire of Learning* ("Ancients and Moderns"). **Midterm assignment Given.**
- 20.4 *A Tale of a Tub*
- 27.4 *Gulliver's Travels*. **Midterm assignment due. Recommended reading:** [Wedel, "The Philosophical Background of Gulliver's Travels."](#)
- 4.5 *Gulliver's Travels*;" Erin Mackie, "Swift and Mimetic Sickness."
- 11.5 *Gulliver's Travels*; Douglas Patey, "Swift's Parody of Science."
- 18.5 *Gulliver's Travels*.
- 25.5 Alexander Pope, from *The Dunciad*.
- 1.6 Voltaire, *Candide*.
- 8.6 The afterlife of the Ancients: Eliot, "Tradition and the Individual Talent"; Weil, "The *Iliad*, or The Poem of Force"
- 15.6 The afterlife of the Ancients
- 22.6 Conclusion**