TEXTS. I will distribute most of the readings in photocopy, as much of this material is drawn from my own files. One change since I placed the book-order: we will not read Sterne, Tristram Shandy. The following texts, all required, should be available at The Usual Outlets: Cibber, An Apology for the Life of Colley Cibber; MacKenzie, The Man of Feeling; Pope, Selected Poems (for The Dunciad in Four Books). You may use another edition for The Dunciad in Four Books if you choose; but be aware that the assigned version, first published in 1742 and sometimes called The New Dunciad (or, as in the assigned edition, simply The Dunciad) is not interchangeable with The Dunciad of 1727 or The Dunciad Variorum of 1728 (both of which are also often called, simply, The Dunciad).

DESCRIPTION. We’ll veer pretty far from the established canon, or canons, but will land on terra (reasonably) firma every now and then, too. Although I dislike “thesis seminars,” I will hope that these readings capture something important or even definitional about the Zeitgeist of the Restoration and the eighteenth century that is not accessible by way of an examination of more conventional sources. Perhaps we’ll make some progress toward figuring out what this “something” is or might be. By the by: there is in these works a certain amount of what our modern moralists modestly call “language” and, more obliquely still, “adult situations,” though entries in this last category might often strike us as childish. If you are offended by blunt language, you may want to drop the class.

ATTENDANCE. Students who miss two classes will be disallowed the grade “A”; students who miss three classes will fail the class. Two “lates” count as an absence; early departures count as “lates.”

WEBSITE. Syllabus and updates will be posted at http://www.engl.unt.edu/~apettit.

FINAL PAPER. Due electronically 5/5 at 5:00. No late papers. This is a full-bore research paper on a topic of your choice, provided of course that it concerns at least one of the works that we will read for this class. Yes, I do expect you to spent a considerable amount of time in the library; yes, I do expect you to demonstrate competency in your use of secondary sources; yes, I do have high expectations when it comes to style and usage. MLA documentation is okay; Chicago is better; either is obligatory. Length: 12–15 pages. Use Times New Roman, 12-point, double-spaced, standard margins.

GRADING. Your final grade will be based principally on the grade you receive for the final paper, adjusted as and if necessary to reflect an abundance or a paucity of informed participation.

A JOYFUL DISRUPTION. Sometime toward the end of January or the beginning of February, my wife will give birth to our daughter. This felicitous eventuality has prompted me to purchase a cellular telephone, which I will commit the unpardonable offense of leaving on during class until the baby is safe at home. If my wife goes into labor during class, I’ll pack up and scoot promptly. If she gives birth shortly before a scheduled class meeting, I may have to take an absence. Check the website for updates. The class after the one that I may have to shorten or miss will cover both the shortened or missed reading and the reading regularly scheduled for that date. I may on occasion fail to reach the Pettit Standard of Preparedness, although I will do what I can not to falter. Thanks for bearing with me.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT. Essential competencies for this course include the abilities to read and interpret literature; to participate in discussions about the literature; and to write coherent essays about the literature, outside of class. If you have a disability for which you will require accommodation under the terms of the Americans with Disabilities Act, register with the Office of Disability Accommodation and submit your request for accommodation by 21 January.
SCHEDULE & READING LIST. Read introductory materials; follow sequences recorded here.

1/14 Introductory Eccentricities
? Pepys's diary (selections)
? Dryden, "Mac Flecknoe"
? Shadwell, The Libertine and The Virtuosoos

1/21 Piles of Pepys and "Loads of Sh—?"
? Pepys's diary (selections)
? Dryden, "Mac Flecknoe"
? Shadwell, The Libertine and The Virtuosoos

1/28 Rochester, The Libertines, and The Court of Charles II
? "The Libertines": poems anthologized by Harold Love
? Rochester, A Miscellany of Purplish Verse
? Valentinian: A Tragedy

2/4 Erotica and Rabbits
? Venus in the Cloister: or, The Nun in Her Smock
? A Spy on Mother Midnight
? The Gentleman's Bottle Companion
? The Genuine History of... Sally Salisbury
? Nathaniel St. André, A Short Narrative of an Extraordinary Delivery of Rabbets
? The Discovery, or The Squire Turned Ferret
? The Man-Midwife Unmasqu'd

2/11 Plenty of Mollies and Four Successful Women
? Tunbridge-Walks: or, The Yeoman of Kent
? "The Woman-Hater's Lamentation"
? John Dunton, "The He-Strumpets"
? The Play of Sodom, A Tragedy
? "A New Ballad"
? "An Epistle from Signora F----a to a Lady"
? W. Wilson, Love_Letters between a Certain Late Nobleman and the Famous Beau Wilson

2/18 Scatology
? Jonathan Swift, "Excremental Poems"
? Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, "The Reasons That Induced Dr. S— to Write a Poem..."
? The Benefit of Farthing Explain'd
? Arse Musica; or, the Lady's Back Report to Don Fart_in_Hand_O Puff_in Dorst
? A Full and True Account of a Dreadful Fire That Lately Broke Out in the Pope's Breeches

2/25 Henry Fielding's Drama (and a spinoff)
? Fielding, Tragedy of Tragedies; Historical Register for the Year 1736; Eurydice Hissed
? Eliza Haywood & William Hatchett, The Opera of Operas

3/3 The Dunces Delineated: Pope's New Dunciad (aka Dunciad in Four Books)

3/10 The Dunces in Their Own Write
? Colley Cibber, Apology, chapters 1–8
? Eliza Haywood, Reflections on the Various Effects of Love
? John, Lord Hervey and Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, "Verses Addressed to [Pope]"
? Ambrose Philips, "To Seignora Cuzzoni," “To Miss Margaret Pulteney”
? Henry Carey, “Namby Pamby”

3/17 Spring Break; classes do not meet

3/24 A Dunce, A Lackey, A Disgraced Nobleman, and A Famous Poet
? Hervey, "To the Patrons of the Craftsman"
? William Yonge, Sedition and Defamation Display'd
? William Pulteney, A Proper Reply to...Sedition and Defamation Display'd
? Pope, "An Epistle to Dr. Arbuthnot"

3/31 Madness and Melancholy, Part 1: Diverse Commentaries
? Hannah Allen, A Narrative of God's Gracious Dealings
? Alexander Cruden, The London-Citizen Exceedingly Injured

4/7 Madness and Melancholy, Part 2: William Cowper and Christopher Smart
? Cowper, from A Memoir of the Early Life; “Letter to Rev. John Newton”; from The Task
? Smart, from Jubilate Agno

4/14 The “It Novel”: Francis Coventry, The History of Pompey the Little; or, The Life and Adventures
of a Lap-Dog
4/21  Eccentricity Translated: Alain René Le Sage’s Devil upon Crutches (trans. Tobias Smollett)
4/28  Pre-finals week. I will be in my office during class-hours to discuss your final papers with you
5/5   Papers due electronically by 5:00: e-mail as attachment in Word or WP to alexp@unt.edu.