

**WORKERS & WHISTLEBLOWERS
IN 18TH-CENTURY BRITISH LITERATURE & THEORY**



<https://www.adamsmithworks.org/documents/drawn-to-industry-and-idlenes-s-hogarth-and-smith>

English 2321.001

Professor Deb Armintor

MWF, 10:10 am - 11:00am

LANG 311

UNT Fall 2026

YOUR PROFESSOR

Professor Deb Armintor (they/she), a.k.a. "Dr. A"

Email me 24/7 at dna@unt.edu or deborah.armintor@unt.edu (response within 48 hours)

Text my cell 24/7: 940-300-9857 (response within 24 hours)

In-Person Office Hours: LANG 409B, By Appointment

Virtual Office Hours: By Appointment (Email or text me to schedule and receive a Canvas Zoom meeting link. If you are in an off-campus location with bad wifi, we can conduct our meeting by phone instead if that is your preference).

How to contact me with a question or to schedule an Office Hours appointment: Email or Text me with your question or Office Hours appointment request at the email address or cell phone number listed above. Please do not attempt to reach me via Canvas chat, messenger, or any other Canvas interface. Be sure to state the following in the subject heading of every email and the body of each text: your full name, the name or number of the course, and your course section number.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The century that gave rise to pre-industrial capitalism and popularized the middle-class cult of self-interested individualism also saw the world's first whistleblower protection law and an explosion of popular literature centering working-class characters and their struggles against the "bad bosses" and systems exploiting them for profit and power. In this course, we will explore eighteenth-century novels, poems, and plays about workers of various kinds, alongside philosophy and theory on labor exploitation and empowerment from the 1700s to the present day.

COURSE READINGS

There is no required textbook for this course. Each required reading is linked or attached electronically on our course Canvas page in the syllabus below, beneath the date that the reading assignment is due.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING

- **Virtual Writer's Notebook: (25% of final course grade, total).** Your virtual writer's notebook will consist of required Canvas Discussion posts about each new course reading, completed *prior* to the class meeting specified, and following the written instructions provided in the discussion prompt. Any *excused* missed virtual writer's notebook activities must be completed as soon as possible. Any *unexcused* missed virtual notebook activities will receive a zero. Students must complete all excused missing Virtual Writer's Notebook activities before **Friday, December 11th** or receive a zero for each missing activity.
- **Test 1 (25% of course grade, Wednesday, October 9th):** In class, closed book, closed notes, without looking at the syllabus or using the internet. Based on all reading assignments and class discussions from the beginning of the semester, the test will consist of 20 multiple choice questions, including some multiple-choice quote i.d's of passages discussed in class. You will be tested solely on matters of fact, not interpretation, and will not be tested on anything that wasn't discussed in class. There will be an in-class test prep session the class meeting prior to the test date. Notes from that prep session will be attached to the syllabus afterwards.
- **Test 2 (25% of course grade, Wednesday, November 18):** In class, closed book, closed notes, without looking at the syllabus or using the internet. Based on all reading assignments and class discussions from the second part of the semester (i.e. everything after Test 1), the test will consist of 20 multiple choice questions,

including some multiple-choice quote i.d's of passages discussed in class. You will be tested solely on matters of fact, not interpretation, and will not be tested on anything that wasn't discussed in class. There will be an in-class test prep session the class meeting prior to the test date. Notes from that prep session will be attached to the syllabus afterwards.

- **Final Essay (25% of course grade, due on Canvas by Friday December 11 at 11:59pm):** In this 6-page (or more) formal critical essay, you will introduce, develop, and sustain an original argument about any aspect of any one or two text(s) covered in the class. If you would like to write about something different, you must run your idea by me first to get permission. In each paragraph, be sure to quote directly and selectively from the text you're critiquing, and to analyze those passages closely and creatively, with attention to detail and context. Avoid dwelling on points we've already covered in class, unless it's a point that you made in class yourself. You may freely refer to any point already covered in class if you're using it as a springboard to saying something new. Avoid stating the obvious: With every point you make, be sure to move beyond "arguing" a point that, though true, should be obvious to any other intelligent reader in the class. Good essays take the risk of introducing a counterintuitive or surprising argument that is somehow "new"; otherwise, it's not worth stating at all. Formatting: essays must be 6 pages or more, 1.5- or double-spaced, in a reasonable font (11 or 12-point Times New Roman, for instance), and with 1 inch margins all around, submitted electronically via the course Canvas page. Additional Sources: Research and additional sources beyond your primary texts are welcome but not required. If you choose to consult, reference, or quote from any sources not listed on the syllabus, you must provide an MLA-style "Works Cited" list on a separate page at the end of your essay (See: https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_works_cited_page_basic_format.html). Cite any quotes or references to any texts parenthetically within the body of your essay, unless you're citing from a text in the syllabus

that does not provide page or line numbers, and/or if it's clear from your sentence which author and text you're citing. Professor Help and Feedback: In addition to the scheduled in-class essay workshop sessions our last week of class, I am available throughout the semester to meet with you individually to brainstorm essay topics or offer feedback on drafts.

COURSE POLICIES

ATTENDANCE AND UNEXCUSED ABSENCES:

Attendance will be taken daily and is expected daily of all enrolled students. **You are allowed 3 “free” unexcused absences in this course, i.e. an absence about which you have not notified the instructor in writing.** You are responsible for keeping track of your own absences. After a fourth unexcused absence, you might be dropped from the course. If you reach a fourth unexcused absence, please contact the instructor immediately to discuss your options.

EXCUSED ABSENCES DUE TO ILLNESS:

It is important for all of us to be mindful of the health and safety of everyone in our classroom community. If you are experiencing any symptoms of illness please seek medical attention from the Student Health and Wellness Center or your health care provider PRIOR to attending class, and do not attend class if you are or might be contagious. If you choose to do so, you may email your professor to inform them of your absence due to illness or other medical issues. **Any and all absences due to illness count as excused absences, as long as you notify the instructor in writing before or after the class missed. Please do NOT email any medical records directly to your instructor.**

EXCUSED ABSENCES FOR NON-ILLNESS REASONS:

An absence for non-illness reasons counts as excused if you have notified the instructor in writing, before or shortly after your absence, whenever you are reasonably and safely able to do so. You need not provide detail or documentation to justify your absence. Just the briefest and most general two or three-word explanation will suffice: family emergency, traffic/parking issue, pet issue, mental health day, medical appointment, religious holiday/observance, etc. **All absences due to religious observance automatically count as excused.**

LATENESS TO CLASS:

Most students, at some point or another, meet with unforeseen circumstances that make them late for class. Although you should ideally arrive to class on time so as not to miss any important material, you are always better off showing up to class, even if you are late. You will not be marked absent simply for arriving to class late.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES:

No phone or headphone use during class, unless needed for ADA accessibility reasons or otherwise specified by the instructor. While some computer use is permitted, you are expected to be accessing course materials only during class. This policy is important for participation in the course and as a general exercise in focusing our attention and showing respect for the classroom space. If I see you using your phone during class, I can mark you as absent. If you have an issue that requires you to have your phone out during class, please inform me beforehand.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS:

All writing assignments must be submitted in the order listed in the syllabus, on or before the due date listed in the syllabus, unless you require additional time for ADA accommodation purposes. Outside of ADA accommodations, if you require additional time to work on an assignment for any reason, please contact the instructor to receive permission for an excused late submission without penalty. Special permission to submit late will be granted by the instructor on a case by case basis, erring on the side of trust and generosity. Even in the case of excused late submissions without penalty, written work submitted after the last day of final exam week will result in a zero for the assignment, or --if, and only if, requested of the instructor by the student in writing and granted by the instructor in writing-- a final course grade of "Incomplete," which will revert in your transcript to a regular course grade without penalty once you have emailed the instructor your remaining missing work as specified by the instructor when granting your requested incomplete.

AI POLICY

This course requires that all written work submitted by each student will be the original work and writing of that student alone. That means the use of any generative (i.e. content-producing) AI tools such as ChatGPT or Grammarly is strictly prohibited. Any student in this course who uses ChatGPT, Grammarly, or any other content-producing AI tool will receive the same consequence that they would for plagiarizing the work of others or for having another person(s) or company write their assignment for them: an automatic zero (F) on the assignment, and a report filed with the Office of Academic Integrity.

PLAGIARISM AND ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

The UNT Policy Manual defines plagiarism as: “(a) the knowing or negligent use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgement and (b) the knowing or negligent unacknowledged use of

materials prepared by another person or by an agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.” (18.1.11). Students must be aware of the strict policies against plagiarism and academic honesty enforced by UNT. All student writing in this course must be original, and all uses of other writer’s material (i.e., for the purposes of research based argumentation) must be acknowledged and clearly cited in any writing submitted for a grade. If I suspect plagiarism, I will ask to meet with you to discuss the matter. If I determine that plagiarism has occurred, I will give you a zero on the assignment and report the incident to the Office of Academic Integrity.

ADA POLICY:

Accessibility to everyone in the classroom is of the utmost importance to me as an educator. For ADA reasonable accommodation protections at UNT, students must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with a reasonable accommodation letter and submit it electronically to you and your instructors so that you can begin a private discussion with your instructors regarding your specific reasonable accommodation needs in each course. You may request reasonable accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of reasonable accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of reasonable accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information, refer to the Office of Disability Access website at <https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access>[Links to an external site.](#) . You may also contact ODA by phone at (940) 565-4323.

COURSE SCHEDULE

This schedule is subject to modification at my discretion to accommodate the pacing of our class discussions. Students will be notified in advance of any possible schedule changes in person by the end of the previous class date. Reading and writing assignments listed beside or under each course meeting date are **due on that date.**

WEEK 1

Mon (8.17):

- Lecture/Discussion: Intro to the Class

Weds (8.19):

- Lecture/Discussion: The Rise of and Rhetoric of English Bourgeois Ideology in the 1700s
- In-Class Video Screening: [The Making of the English Working Class](#)

Fri (8/21):

- Read for today: [Bernard de Mandeville, "The Grumbling Hive: Or, Knaves Turned Honest," i.e. the poem before the introduction to The Fable of the Bees; Or Private Vices, Public Benefits, pp. 1-12](#)
- Virtual Writer's Notebook Activity on Bernard de Mandeville, "The Grumbling Hive: Or, Knaves Turned Honest," i.e. the poem before the introduction to *The Fable of the Bees; Or Private Vices, Public Benefits*, pp. 1-12
- Note: The seat you choose today will be your seat for the rest of the semester unless you have a good reason to change seats, in which case, please let me know privately. On the numbered index card at your seat, write your preferred first name, your last name, your pronouns, and the reason you're taking this course

WEEK 2

Mon (8.24):

- Continue discussing Mandeville

Weds (8.26):

- Read for today: [Adam Smith, Introduction and Book I, Chapters 1-5, *The Wealth of Nations*](#)
- Virtual Writer's Notebook Activity on Adam Smith, Introduction and Book I, Chapters 1-5, *The Wealth of Nations*

Fri (8.28):

- Continue discussing Smith

WEEK 3

Mon (8.31):

- Read for today: [Karl Marx, *Critique of Political Economy*, Volume I, Book 1, Chapter 1: "Commodities" and A. Notes on the History of the Theory of Value, pp. 19-73](#)
- Virtual Writer's Notebook Activity on Karl Marx, *Critique of Political Economy*, Volume I, Book 1, Chapter 1: "Commodities" and A. Notes on the History of the Theory of Value, pp. 19-73

Weds (9.2):

- Read for today: [Stephen Duck, "Thresher's Labour" & Intro.pdf](#)
- Virtual Writer's Notebook Activity on Stephen Duck, "Thresher's Labour" & Intro

Fri (9.4):

- Read for today: [Mary Collier "Woman's Labour" & Intro.pdf](#)

- Virtual Writer's Notebook Activity on Mary Collier "Woman's Labour" & Intro

WEEK 4

Mon (9.7): **Labor Day: No Class**

Weds (9.9):

- Lecture/Discussion: Capitalism and the Rise of the Novel

Fri (9.11):

- Read for today: First fourth of [Samuel Richardson, *Pamela*](#)
- Virtual Writer's Notebook Activity on Samuel Richardson, *Pamela*

WEEK 5

Mon (9.14):

- Read for today: Second fourth of [Samuel Richardson, *Pamela*](#)

Weds (9.16):

- Read for today: Third fourth of [Samuel Richardson, *Pamela*](#)

Fri (9.18):

- Read for today: Finish [Samuel Richardson, *Pamela*](#)

WEEK 6

Mon (9.21): **Instructor's Religious Holiday (No Class)**

Weds (9.23):

- Read for today: First third of Henry Fielding, *Shamela*
- Virtual Writer's Notebook Activity on Henry Fielding, *Shamela*

Fri (9.25):

- Read for today: Second third of Henry Fielding, *Shamela*

WEEK 7

Mon (9.28):

- Read for today: Finish Henry Fielding, *Shamela*

Weds (9.30):

- Read for today: [Henry Fielding, *Joseph Andrews*, Author's Preface and Chapters 1-4](#)
- Virtual Writer's Notebook Activity on *Joseph Andrews*, Author's Preface and Chapters 1-4

Fri (10.2):

- Read for today: [Henry Fielding, *Joseph Andrews*, Chapters 5-10](#)

WEEK 8

Mon (10.5):

- Test 1 Prep Session (Prep Session notes posted here after class)

Weds (10.7):

- Test 1 Prep Session (Prep Session notes posted here after class)

Fri (10.9):

- In-Class Test 1 (20 questions, multiple choice):

WEEK 9:

Mon (10.12):

- Read for today: Allison Stanger, *Whistleblowers*, Introduction and Chapter 1
- Virtual Writer's Notebook Activity on Allison Stanger, *Whistleblowers*, Introduction and Chapter 1

Weds (10.14):

- Read for today: Michel Foucault, "Panopticism," from *Discipline & Punish* (Foucault, Panopticism from Discipline & Punish (1).pdf)
- Virtual Writer's Notebook Activity on Michel Foucault, "Panopticism," from *Discipline & Punish*

Fri (10.16):

- Continue discussing Stanger and Foucault

WEEK 10

Mon (10.19):

- Read for today: First fifth of [William Godwin, *Caleb Williams*](#)
- Virtual Writer's Notebook Activity on first fifth of William Godwin, *Caleb Williams*

Weds (10.21):

- Read for today: Second fifth of [William Godwin, *Caleb Williams*](#)

Fri (10.23):

- Read for today: Third fifth of [William Godwin, *Caleb Williams*](#)

WEEK 11

Mon (10.26):

- Read for today: Fourth fifth of [William Godwin, Caleb Williams](#)

Wed (10.28):

- Read for today: Finish [William Godwin, Caleb Williams](#)

Fri (10.30):

- In-Class Screening and Discussion: [Juno Mac on Sex Workers' Rights and Sex Work as Work:
https://www.ted.com/talks/juno_mac_the_laws_that_sex_workers_really_want?subtitle=en](#)

WEEK 12

Mon (11.2):

- Read for today: First third of [John Cleland, Fanny Hill](#)
- Virtual Writer's Notebook Activity on John Cleland, *Fanny Hill*

Weds (11.4):

- Read for today: Second third of [John Cleland, Fanny Hill](#)

Fri (11.6):

- Read for today: Finish [John Cleland, Fanny Hill](#)

WEEK 13

Mon (11.9):

- Read for today: First third of George Lillo, *London Merchant*

- Virtual Writer's Notebook Activity on first third of Lillo, *London Merchant*

Weds (11.11):

- Read for today: Second third of George Lillo, *London Merchant*

Fri (11.13):

- Read for today: Finish George Lillo, *London Merchant*

WEEK 14

Mon (11.16):

- Test 2 Prep Session; Prep Session (notes posted here after class)

Weds (11.18):

- In-Class Test 2 (20 questions, multiple choice)

Fri (11.20):

- In-Class Final Essay Workshop

WEEK 15: Thanksgiving Break, No Class 11.23-11.27

WEEK 16

Mon (11.30):

- In-Class: Final Essay Workshop

Weds (12.2):

- In-Class: Final Essay Workshop

- In-Class: SPOT Evaluations

FINAL ESSAYS DUE via Canvas on Friday December 11 by 11:59 pm

Note: There is no final exam for this course.