

# Introduction to Eighteenth-century English Art and Society

## 十八世紀英國的藝術與社會

Lecturer: Chihyin Hsiao

Office Hour: Thur 14:00-15:00 in NYCU

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### **Course Description**

What happened in eighteenth-century England? Why are these events important to us? With such questions in mind, this course examines the social and political changes depicted in the eighteenth-century English art and literature.

It has been established that the period between the Glorious and Industrial Revolution saw England rise from a small agricultural country to a mighty sea-faring state. Behind this great transformation was an entrepreneurial spirit which carried England through major social and political conflicts. From waging wars to improving general living standards, eighteenth-century English artists and writers were keen to extend their thoughts on issues such as national wealth, freedom of speech and the slave trade. Their works sparked serious debate and a somber self-reflection that eventually led to a national consensus shared by the British citizens today.

Paintings, architectures, etchings, and decorative works of art are paired with archival evidences and literary works to showcase the significant changes in 18th-century England. Students will gain a comprehensive understanding of the highlighted historical events and their significance to today's world.

### **Objectives**

- To compare paintings, etchings and archival evidence in order to address their social, cultural, and political effects: how they help dramatize, explain, reflect upon, and rethink human experience.
- To discuss the development of historical events and their significance.
- To increase fluency in the elements of English language, including critical reading, summary, and paraphrase.

### **Bibliography**

Brewer, John. *The Pleasures of the Imagination: English Culture in the Eighteenth Century*. New York: Farrar Straus and Giroux, 1997

Chaudhury, Sushil and Michel Morineau (eds). *Merchants, Companies and Trade:*

*Europe and Asia in the Early Modern Era*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999

Fabricant, Carole (ed). *A Modest Proposal and Other Writings*. London: Penguin Books, 2009

Glanville, Philippa and Hilary Young (eds). *Elegant Eating: Four Hundred Years of Dining in Style*. London: V&A Press, 2002

Kramer, Stanley. *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner*. 1967. L.A.: Columbia Pictures, 1999, DVD

Vickery, Amanda. *Behind Closed Doors: At Home in Georgian England*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2009

### **Schedule**

Week 1	Introduction
<b>Section I.</b>	<b>Politics and Society</b>
Week 2	From Palaces to the Becoming of Nation
Week 3	From Coffee Houses to Two-parties Politics
<b>Section II.</b>	<b>Merchants and Trades</b>
Week 4	From Tea to English East India Company
Week 5	Group Presentations (Group 1 & 2)
Week 6	From Cartoons to Abolitionism
Week 7	Mid-term Movie
Week 8	Group Presentations (Group 3 & 4)
<b>Section III.</b>	<b>The Middling Sorts</b>
Week 9	From Great Hall to Everyday Dining
Week 10	From Calico to New Fashion
<b>Section IV.</b>	<b>Women and Family Engagement</b>
Week 11	From Conversation Pieces to Female Virtues
Week 12	Group Presentations (Group 5 & 6)
Week 13	From Prints to Novels
Week 14	Coffee House Workshop
Week 15	Review
Week 16	Group Presentations (Group 7 & 8)

### **Grading and Assignment**

Group presentation:	30%
Mid-term movie review:	30%
Final essay:	30%
Participation:	10%