

Department of English & Writing Studies  
**Body, Soul, and Person in the Eighteenth Century**  
English 3342G (001)  
Winter 2019

**Instructor:** Prof. Mary Helen McMurrin  
Office: UC 3434  
[mmcmurr2@uwo.ca](mailto:mmcmurr2@uwo.ca)

**Course Location:** University Community  
Centre, Room 61

**Office Hours:** Wed. 11:30 am-1:30 pm and  
by appointment

**Course Date/Time:** Monday 1:30-3:30 pm,  
Wednesday 1:30-2:30 pm

**Prerequisites:** At least 60% in 1.0 of [English 1020E](#) or [English 1022E](#) or [English 1024E](#) or [English 1035E](#) or [English 1036E](#) or [English 1042E](#) or both of [English 1027F/G](#) and [English 1028F/G](#), or permission of the Department.

### Course Description

In this course, we will explore the idea of what it means to be a person in the eighteenth century. The rise of individualism plays a role, but we also look at the role of soul, mind, and body as aspects of personhood. There are major debates in the eighteenth century about whether the self is just an idea in the mind, and there are big questions about how the body relates to the mind and soul. And what about nonhumans? For some animals and things are sometimes considered persons. Because there are many perspectives, we will investigate how diverse authors—women and men, Afro-Britons and whites—think of themselves as individuals. We will also gauge how different forms such as philosophical essay, autobiography, and imaginative fiction determine the meanings of person.

### **Objectives:**

By the end of the course, successful students will be able to:

- Creatively and intellectually engage with readings;
- Improve close reading skills;
- Participate regularly in class discussion and work in small groups;
- Compose essays with complex arguments;
- Comprehend and write cogent summaries of scholarly essays discussed in class and on your own;
- Find relevant secondary sources on your own; find relevant primary sources;
- Successfully incorporate scholarly criticism into complex arguments in your essays.

### Course Materials

Students must purchase these books available at UWO Bookstore. (Other materials will be provided.)

Olaudah Equiano, *The Interesting Narrative* Penguin.  
*History of Mary Prince, A West Indian Slave*. Penguin.

### Methods of Evaluation

The grade for the course will be arrived at as follows:

Assessments of written work weighted in proportion to length and significance. See timetable below.

**Attendance Policy: Any student who misses more than the equivalent of 2 weeks of class without accommodation may receive a deduction of marks.**

### Additional Information

No laptops in class except where noted on the schedule. No use of cell phone, tablet or any device in class.

All written work will be submitted electronically on OWL. Essays will be submitted automatically to turnitin, the plagiarism checking site. Plagiarism is a serious breach of academic honesty and punishment will be as severe as possible.

Late papers are unacceptable, except in extenuating circumstances. No work will be accepted after the end of classes.

### Timetable

#### **Jan 7/9**

Theory of Mind, History of Consciousness and Personhood

Anne Finch, "A Nocturnal Reverie," "To the Nightingale," "Spleen: An Ode"

James Thomson, "Hymn to Solitude"

#### **Jan 14/16**

Charlotte Smith, from *Elegiac Sonnets*

Adela Pinch, from *Strange Fits of Passion: Epistemologies of Emotion, Hume to Austen*, Chap. 2.

#### **Jan 21/23**

Smith and Pinch cont'd

Olaudah Equiano, *The Interesting Narrative* Preface and chapters 1-3

**1200-1300 word essay on Smith and Pinch due Jan. 25 11:55 p.m. 30%**

#### **Jan 28/30**

Olaudah Equiano, *The Interesting Narrative* chapters 4-9

Samuel Johnson [A Brief to Free a Slave]

#### **Feb 4/6**

Olaudah Equiano, *The Interesting Narrative* chapters 10-12

Ramesh Mallipeddi, "Filiation to Affiliation: Kinship and Sentiment in Equiano's *Interesting Narrative*."

#### **Feb 11/13**

Olaudah Equiano, *The Interesting Narrative* and Mallipeddi cont'd

Research 1 Bring your laptop to class

Reading Week Feb 18/20

**Feb 25/27**

*History of Mary Prince* Read the introduction to the Penguin edition and pp 3-38

**Mar 4/6**

*History of Mary Prince* Read pp 39-70  
Research 2 Bring your laptop to class

**Research bibliography + literature review (1200 words) due Mar. 9 11:55 p.m. 30%**

**Mar 11/13**

*History of Mary Prince*  
Essay preparation

**Mar 18/20**

Writing Week: office hours

**2500-2700 word essay due Mar. 23<sup>rd</sup> 11:55 pm 40%**

**Mar 25/27**

Samuel Taylor Coleridge, "The Pains of Sleep"  
John Keats, "Sonnet to Sleep," "Ode to a Nightingale"

**Apr 1/3**

John Keats, "Ode on Melancholy," "Ode on Indolence"

Accommodation

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the Office of the Dean of the student's Faculty of registration, together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. The UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and further information regarding this policy can be found at [http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_medical.pdf](http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf).

**Downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC):**

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf)

Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

**Plagiarism:**

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence.

**Plagiarism Checking:**

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com <http://www.turnitin.com>.

All instances of plagiarism will be reported to the Chair of Undergraduate Studies. Proven cases of plagiarism will result in a grade of zero for the assignment. Subsequent offences will result in failure for the course.

Support Services

Registrarial Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services <https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login>

Services provided by the USC <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Student Development Centre <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to MentalHealth@Western:  
<http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.