

English 6723/4723
The Restoration and Swift
Professor: Rich Raymond
MWF 9:00-9:50



Dear Students,

Born just seven years after the restoration of the Stuart monarchy in 1660, Jonathan Swift lived until 1745, well into the Hanoverian dynasty, nearly 20 years after the publication of his great satire, *Gulliver's Travels*.

In our semester together, we will examine the range and influence of Swift's satirical poetry and prose, as well as the political and cultural contexts that generated his anger and his wit.

To prepare ourselves to understand Swift, we will explore the Restoration period by reading selected poetry and prose by John Dryden as well as comedies by William Wycherley, George Etherege, Aphra Behn, and William Congreve. We will then concentrate on Swift's work. In addition to a close study of *Gulliver's Travels*, we will read selectively from his earlier satiric narratives as well as from his poetry, correspondence, and essays.

Projects

- A reader-response journal
- A mid-term examination, including a take-home essay on Restoration comedy
- A research paper focused on *Gulliver's Travels* or on another major work by another writer from the Restoration period
- A comprehensive final examination
- An oral report (for graduate students) offering a critical review of a scholarly article (or book chapter) focused on Swift's work or on that of another major figure from the Restoration period