

## Preliminary Web Course Description

\*Please note: This is a preliminary web course description only. The department reserves the right to change without notice any information in this description. The final, binding course outline will be distributed in the first class of the semester.

### School of English and Theatre Studies

Course Code: ENGL 4250	Course Title: 18 <sup>th</sup> and 19 <sup>th</sup> Century Literature	Date of Offering: <b>FALL 2017</b>
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Course Instructor: D. O'Quinn	Course Format: Seminar
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#### Brief Course Synopsis:

This multi-genre course will offer an introduction to a series of British theatrical and ethnographic representations of Ottoman culture in the long eighteenth century. The course is divided into two six-week sections. The first section of the course looks at a period when English observers looked to the Ottoman Porte as force to be reckoned with on the world stage. This political preoccupation was strongly felt in the theatre of the Restoration and we will be looking at how operatic and theatrical performances translated proto-ethnographic accounts of Turkish life into allegories for governance. The spaces of the divan and the harem will become crucial to our discussions here, as will the theoretical consideration of how to study performance historically. The final six weeks of the course focus on a period when the Ottoman Empire was in a state of terminal decline, yet still a crucial factor in the balance of global power. Significant changes in the form and function of orientalism, and in the theatrical institutions of London generated quite different representations both of the iconic spaces of Turkish life and the very bodies of the performers in question. Again we will be looking at ethnographic materials, but with the added complication of considering Muslim accounts of theatrical and social performance in London. One of the key challenges set by this course is developing a set of critical tools capable of dealing with the complexity of intercultural performance, imperial representation, and historical research.

#### Methods of Evaluation and Weight:

##### Seminar Assignments

1. Close Reading 20%  
In week three I will be asking you to write a 500 word close reading of a passage from one of the course texts

2. Article Analysis 20%  
In week six you will be assigned a 500 word article analysis that will be due the following class. The essay assigned will hopefully be directly connected to your research project.

##### Independent Research Project

1. Project Proposal 10%  
In week 5 I will be asking for a 250 word proposal for a major research project. The project could choose to focus on a particular problem in the criticism of orientalist discourse or on the complex problem of doing literary history in the contemporary moment or it could choose to focus on a particular text or play. Whatever the project I want you to clearly articulate the extent of the archive you are consulting and the critical problem you seek to address.

2. Prospectus/Bibliography 20%  
After your proposal has been accepted I want you to develop a paragraph by paragraph account

of your argument. In other words, I am looking for a detailed outline of the paper you are going to write. The prospectus should be detailed enough to show when and how close readings will enter your argument. It should also give a sense of how secondary critical material will enter your argument. With this in mind, the prospectus should be accompanied by a select annotated bibliography. This will be due at the end of Week 9.

3. Final Paper

30%

Using your prospectus as a guide, you will be asked to write a 15 page research paper that takes into account the suggestions made during the process of writing. Due Friday of Week 12.

**Texts and/or Resources Required (e.g. Internet access, specific textbook title, lab kit, etc.)**

Abu Talib, Travels of Mirza Abu Taleb Khan, Broadview

Antoine Galland, trans. The Arabian Nights, Oxford World's Classics

Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, The Turkish Embassy Letters, Broadview

Alan Richardson, Three Oriental Tales, Riverside

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play texts and early travel narratives on Courselink.

**Other information that you wish share about the course (optional):**

The formal written work in this course involves an independent research project that will ask them to integrate the formal, historical and theoretical knowledge necessary to fully engage with these texts.

**List the distribution requirements that this course fulfills: 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> C**