**English 4460 / Timeline**

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**I’ll add on to this timeline as we go through the syllabus, including more specific information about the writers we are studying.**

**[Key: primary texts, secondary texts,** socio-political, cultural, and historical events; **information on figures covered by presentations]**

1688-69 “Glorious Revolution”: Catholic James II goes into exile and Parliament wields their power to invite William and Mary of Orange to become the Protestant King and Queen of England. The throne stays in the hands of the Stuarts, Mary was James II’s eldest daughter but had been raised an Anglican at the wishes of her uncle, Charles II. In any case, the line of succession was broken by a protestant parliament. England does not have separation of church and state; the Church of England is the Church of the Nation.

**1692, George Savile, from The Lady’s New-year’s Gift; or, Advice to a Daughter (Burney, Evelina 563-569)**

**1694 Mary Astell, *A Serious Proposal to the Ladies, for the Advancement of Their True and Greatest Interest***

**1699 Mary Astell, *Reflections Upon Marriage***

**1699, John Locke,**[**selections from Some Thoughts Concerning Education**](http://ctlsites.uga.edu/eberle/wp-content/uploads/sites/78/2019/08/Locke_Ideas.pdf)

1701 The Act of Settlement establishes the Hanoverian succession to the English throne. Roman Catholics were disqualified from inheriting the throne, this meant that all Stuart heirs were disinherited with the throne going to the heirs of the Sophia of Hanover, grand-daughter of James I, the Scottish King who had inherited the throne from Elizabeth I.

1702 Queen Anne (Mary’s sister, James II’s younger daughter) ascends the throne after the death of William III

1702 Launch of the first regularly published daily newspaper in England, *The Daily Courant*

1702 Battle of Blenheim, in which a Grand Alliance that included British, Austrian, and Prussian forces defeated the armies of France and Bavaria, leaving over 30,000 dead or wounded and effectively ending the hopes of France’s Louis XIV of dominating Europe

1706-07 Acts of Union. England and Scotland join to form Great Britain. The Scottish Parliament is abolished but Scots Law differs in some regards from English law.

1709 An Act for the Encouragement of Learning—the first act to formally protect copyright. Under the provisions of the act, authors of new books were given the monopoly over their printing for an initial period of fourteen years

1709 Sir Richard Steele begins publishing *The Tatler*, the first major British periodical meant for general reading by men and women of the middle and upper classes

**1711 Sir Richard Steele and Joseph Addison begin publishing *The Spectator*, a periodical succeeding *The Tatler*,** that makes use of a fictional framework to comment on society and culture.

**1703 Lady Mary Chudleigh, “To the Ladies” and “The Wish”**

**1713 Anne Finch, Countess of Winchelsea publishes *Miscellany Poems on Several Occasions, Written by a Lady***

1714 Death of Queen Anne; George, Elector of Hanover, becomes George I of

England

1714 Population of England approximately 5.5 million

1715 First Jacobite Rebellion is unsuccessful

**1716 Lady Mary Wortley Montagu’s letter book begins in August of 1716**

1720 Economic failure known as the South Sea Bubble

1721 Lady Mary Wortley Montagu introduces inoculation for smallpox to England

1723 The Workhouse Act makes theft and poaching punishable by death; to get public assistance, the poor had to enter a parish workhouse.

**1724 Lady Mary Wortley Montagu loans her letter-book to Mary Astell**

1727 George I dies; accession of George II

1733 Invention of the flying shuttle, which begins to mechanize the weaving industry

**1739 Mary Collier, “The Woman’s Labour; an Epistle to Mr. Stephen Duck; In Answer to his late Poem, called The Thresher’s Labour”**

1742 England at war with Spain

1744-48 England at war with France in America

1745-46 The Second Jacobite Rebellion is unsuccessful under the leadership of “Bonnie Prince Charlie,” the eldest son of James II

**1745 Eliza Haywood publishes *The Female Spectator*, ostensibly by a club of four women, which continues in monthly issues.**

**1749, Edward Moore, from Fables of the Fair Sex**

**1753 Early self-portrait of Angelica Kauffman, see Welborn presentation**

**1753 Jane Collier, *An Essay on the Art of Ingeniously Tormenting***

1753 Clandestine Marriage Act abolishes common law marriage by requiring formal procedures for marriage determined by the state and the Church of England. The Act had the effect of entrenching more widely the principle of coverture.

**1754, [John Hill], from On the Management and Education of Children, A Series of Letters Written to a Neice; By the Honourable Juliana-Susannah Seymour**

1756 The Seven Years War with France begins

1757 The East Indian Company achieves dominance in India by defeating the Nawab of Bengal

**1757, Edmund Burke, “On Delicacy” from A Philosophical Enquiry into the Origin of our Ideas of the Sublime and the Beautiful**

1760 George II dies; accession of George III

1760 Sometimes considered the beginning of the Industrial Revolution because of the ways in which scientific innovation began to transform labor and the production of goods.

**1761, Lady Sarah Pennington, from An Unfortunate Mother’s Advice to Her Absent Daughters; In a Letter to Miss Pennington**

**1762 Rousseau, *Émile* and *The Social Contract***

**1763 Frances Sheridan, *The Discovery***

**1763 Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, *The Turkish Embassy Letter* (published)**

1765-1770 William Blackstone’s *Commentaries on the Laws of England* turns the practice of **coverture** into canon law.

Blackstone on coverture:

“By marriage, the husband and wife are one person in law: that is, the very being or legal existence of the woman is suspended during the marriage, or at least is incorporated and consolidated into that of the husband: under whose wing, protection, and cover, she performs every thing; and is therefore called in our law-French a feme-covert; is said to be covert-baron, or under the protection and influence of her husband, her baron, or lord; and her condition during her marriage is called her coverture. Upon this principle, of a union of person in husband and wife, depend almost all the legal rights, duties, and disabilities, that either of them acquire by the marriage. I speak not at present of the rights of property, but of such as are merely personal. For this reason, a man cannot grant any thing to his wife, or enter into covenant with her: for the grant would be to suppose her separate existence; and to covenant with her, would be only to covenant with himself: and therefore it is also generally true, that all compacts made between husband and wife, when single, are voided by the intermarriage” (1769)

1763 The Peace of Paris ends the Seven Years’ War with France, which led to Britain acquiring many of France’s possessions in North America.

1765 The “Stamp Act” meets resistance from the British colonies

1767 First iron railroads used in mines

1768 Britain establishes The Royal Academy, cultivating national art and artists.

1769 James Watts develops a commercially viable steam engine.

**1769 Clara Reeve, *Original Poems on Several Occasions***

**1770 Phillis Wheatley, Broadside publication of “On the Death of the Rev. Mr. George Whitefield”**

1772 **The Mansfield Decision**: Judge William Murray (Lord Mansfield) rules that there is no legal basis for slavery in England, giving great stimulus to the Abolition movement which was the movement to abolish the slave trade and slavery in the colonies.

**1773 Phillis Wheatley, *Poems on Various Subjects***

**1773 Anna Letitia Barbauld, *Poems***

**1773, Georgianna Cavendish, *Emma; Or, The Unfortunate Attachment: A Sentimental Novel***

**1773, Hester Chapone, “On Politeness and Accomplishments” from Letters on the Improvement of the Mind, Addressed to a Young Lady**

1773 The Tea Act further irritates North American colonists; it is meant to make Indian tea more profitable. The Boston Tea Party.

**1774, John Gregory, from A Father’s Legacy to His Daughters**

1775 Beginning of the American Revolution

1776 American Declaration of Independence

**1778 Frances Burney, *Evelina: Or, The History of a Young Lady’s Entrance into the World***

**1778, Hannah More, *A Search After Happiness: A Pastoral. In Three Dialogues. By a Young Lady.***

**1779 Portrait of Dido Elizabeth Belle Lindsay and her cousin painted by David Martin**

1780 Founding of the Society for Constitutional Information; the beginning of agitation in England for voting and parliamentary reform

**1781 The Zong Incident, in which a ship captain murders enslaved Africans by jettisoning them overboard on the sea journey in order to collect insurance, presided over by Lord Mansfield.**

1781-1782 Maria Cosway paints Georgianna,, Duchess of Devonshire as ‘Cynthia’

1783 End of the Revolutionary War

1783 Abolitionists bring petitions to parliament

**1784 Charlotte Smith publishes the first edition of *Elegiac Sonnets, and other Essays by Charlotte Smith of Bignor Park***

**1784 Georgianna, Duchess of Devonshire, supports James Fox in the elections, see Kisic presentation**

1786 Thomas Clarkson, *An Essay on the Slavery and Commerce of the Human Species* argues for abolition.

1787 Granville Sharp and Thomas Clarkson found the Society for the Abolition of the Slave Trade

**1788 Charlotte Smith, *Emmeline, the Orphan of the Castle***

**1788 Mary Wollstonecraft, *Mary***

1788 George III suffers from a bout of debilitating mental illness and cannot open Parliament; he recovers before a regent is named.

1788 Child Labor Law requires chimney sweeps to be at least 8 years old; there is no mechanism to enforce the act, however.

A period of abolitionist activism that ends with William Wilberforce introducing a bill to end the slave trade in 1791. The abolitionists suffer a defeat.

1789 Revolution in France: the Third Estate forms in June; storming of the Bastille in July; in August a constitution is drafted limiting the monarchy’s power; bread riots in October and the Royal family is brought forcibly into Paris and held there

1789 London Revolution Society meets and the Rev. Dr. Richard Price expresses sympathy with French revolutionaries in his *Discourse on the Love of Our Country*; this inspires Edmund Burke to defend the English monarchy and parliamentary structure in *Reflections on the Revolution in France* (pub. Nov. 1790)

1790 Mary Wollstonecraft rebuts Burke in *Vindication of the Rights of Men*

**1791 Ann Radcliffe, *The Romance of the Forest***

1791 First Haitian Revolution; slaves overthrow French colonial rule in modern-day Haiti

1791 Thomas Paine, *Rights of Man*, another response to Burke.

1791 Wilberforce’s bill for Abolition is defeated.

**1792 Mary Wollstonecraft, *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman***

1792 An array of plans for abolition are discussed and promoted but none are successful

1792 A shoemaker named Thomas Hardy founds the London Corresponding Society; begins with a debate entitled “"Have we who are Tradesman, Shopkeepers and mechanics any right to seek to obtain a parliamentary reform?" that lasts for five nights.

1792 England passes a series of bills meant to restrict freedom of the press; Thomas Paine charged with treason for *Rights of Man;* he is found guilty and sentenced to death in absentia; he had escaped to France.

1792-1793 Reign of Terror in France; the King and Queen are imprisoned; the King is tried and found guilty of treason

1793 Louis XVI is executed in France in January; France declares war on Great Britain, the Dutch Republic, and Spain in February; England reciprocates with a declaration of war; moderate advocates of a constitutional monarchy and limited democracy are executed in France; Marie Antoinette is executed in October; Paine is imprisoned in France but not executed.

1793 William Wilberforce’s second bill for abolition passes in the House of Commons but is defeated in the House of Lords.

1793 A convention of Scottish and English reformers meet in Edinburgh to discuss universal suffrage and parliamentary reform; English participants are arrested when they return to England.

**1794 Georgianna Cavendish supports Thomas Beddoes plan to establish a Pneumatic Institution, dedicated to the study of chemistry in Bristol, Hotwells**

1794 Prominent British radicals are arrested and tried for treason; they are acquitted by a jury of their peers. Later in the year Habeus Corpus is suspended, which allows the government to keep people in prison with charging them with a crime.

1795 A year of conflict between reformers and the British government as the government seeks to limit free speech and public gatherings.

1796 Napoleon Buonaparte begins political rise with military success for the French.

**1798 Mary Wollstonecraft, *Maria; or, the Wrongs of Woman*, published posthumously; Wollstonecraft had died in childbirth in 1797.**

**1798 Joanna Baillie, *Plays on the Passions* (*De Montfort)***

1798 William Godwin and Samuel Taylor Coleridge publish the first edition of *Lyrical Ballads* anonymously.

1798 Horatio Nelson defeats the French fleet at the Battle of the Nile

**1799, Georgianna Cavendish, *The Passage of the Mountain of Saint Gothard***

**1799 Mary Hays, *The Victim of Prejudice***

1799 Commons rejects abolition; year of defeats

**1799 Mary Robinson, *A Letter to the Women of England***

1799 Napoleon seizes control of the French government

1800 Act of Union; the United Kingdom of Great Britain (England and Scotland are joined by Ireland, although not North Ireland)

1803 The Louisiana Purchase

1802 Period of peace with France; the Peace of Amiens lasts from March until May

1804 Napoleon crowns himself Emperor

1805 Nelson defeats the French fleet at Trafalgar

1807 Abolition of the British Slave Trade ends the Slave Trade but not the practice of enslavement in British possessions.

**1800 Late self-portrait of Angelica Kauffman, see Welborn presentation**

**1808 *The Woman of Colour* appears anonymously**