

EN3050 Study Questions

We will consider some (but not necessarily all!) of the following in class. Please prepare notes (or questions) and textual references so that we can have an informed discussion. Please note that the more you prepare for seminars, the more enjoyable they will be and the more confident you will be when facing assessment.

Ask yourselves what the writer is trying to say about his/her society (eg try summarising the arguments between Roxana and the merchant re money, morality, marriage etc), what values the writer is affirming or challenging and where the reader or audience's sympathies lie.

Study Questions for Milton's *Paradise Lost*

Find passages which are significant to our understanding of the following issues (passages listed are suggestions, not an exhaustive list):

The representation of Satan eg is he in any sense an attractive figure?

IV 1.1-113, 374-8, 380-99

NB there is a political reading of *PL*, seeing Satan as rebel against the ordained ruler; do you find this convincing?

The representation of Adam and Eve (1st man and woman so what do they tell us about Milton's beliefs about gender roles and marriage?)

IV 1.288-318, 440-8, 477-91, 635-8

Sexual love

IV 1.741-9, 763-70 (cf the world of Rochester!)

The Fall

IV 1.420-35; IX 1.214, 265-369, 655-833, 856-916, 952-1026

Consequences of the Fall (significant to our understanding of Milton's perception of his society, which is by definition 'fallen')

IX 1.1053-98, 1113-15, 1121-1189.

***Paradise Lost* is Milton's version of Adam, Eve and the Fall. How does it differ from the account in Genesis 3 v.3-7 and 12-13 (in course pack) and what do these differences tell us about Milton?**

Study Questions for Behn's *The Rover*

Find passages which are significant to our understanding of the following issues (passages listed are suggestions, not an exhaustive list):

Women commercialised / seen in terms of property eg in marriage arrangements (I sc i), rape attempts (III sc iii-iv, IV sc iii) or prostitution (I sc ii)

Libertine philosophy / the cavaliers and what they stand for eg Blunt as fool - part of town v. city opposition (end I sc ii); cf Willmore to Rochester ie find examples of passages where Willmore is reminiscent of Rochester in tone, attitude or subject matter

Masquerade carnival and disguise, its freedoms and its dangers eg end I sc I

Battle of the sexes eg Hellena and Willmore sparring eg latter part of III sc i, latter part of V sc I; the gulling (fooling) of Blunt III sc ii and, more darkly, the rape attempts

Consider Behn's position as playwright eg contemporary association of professional women writers with prostitutes eg Angelica, end I sc ii, Angelica's picture, beginning II sc i and the Post-script in particular. NB in the Prologue Behn refers to the author of the play as male. Can you suggest why?

Study Questions for Defoe's *Roxana*

Find passages which are significant to our understanding of the following issues (passages listed are suggestions, not an exhaustive list):

Marriage Roxana's first marriage pp 40,43; quasi marriage contract with landlord pp.76-8; Roxana's argument in favour of 'female liberty' pp.212,269, even to the point of women financially supporting their lovers p.188; merchant's response p.197 (cf Milton); their debate on marriage pp.187-93

World of the Court top p.213, masquerade and Roxana in 'that dress' pp.214-7; exotic ball pp.220ff; Roxana as courtesan p.223; Roxana in different kind of disguise at the Quaker's p.256

Sex and money Roxana puts Amy to bed with the landlord p.81; Roxana on sex and money p.109 (compare Moll's sexualised response to money in *Moll Flanders*); Roxana as 'Queen of whores' p.119; proud of her business acumen (she's 'trading' cf Angelica in *The Rover*) p.169; money more significant to Roxana than love eg debate with the 'lord' who wants to employ her services pp.225-6

Dutch merchant honest with money p.160; Clayton re merchants pp.210-11 (reflects Defoe's position on the social usefulness of merchants and Charles II's praise of merchants)

Repentance Roxana's conscience p.79, possible repentance pp.164-7, 306 (can we trust her?)

Poverty as excuse for crime / immorality pp.61-3, 72, 243-5; difficulty in supporting children pp.48-9,52,56-8

What do you think Defoe was trying to achieve in writing *Roxana*? Pay particular attention to the claims (and the tone) of the Preface and then consider the moral significance (if any) of the conclusion.

Study Questions for *Gulliver's Travels*

Please read the lecture first (on IBIS) and be prepared to consider the following in class. It will be helpful if you make notes from the lecture and of course the text itself.

1. Was Swift a misogynist?
2. Do you find any continuity in the attitudes towards women, sexuality and the body expressed in Swift's poetry (see course pack) and *Gulliver's Travels*?
3. Swift is celebrated as a gifted satirist. Consider the different comments on satire in the course pack. Which strikes you as most appropriate to *Gulliver's Travels* and why? You may find it helpful to consider the final chapter of *Gulliver's Travels*.
4. What do you think Swift hoped to achieve in writing *Gulliver's Travels*?

5. What are the objects of Swift's satire and what does this tell us about 18thc society?

Some suggestions for consideration:

Politics I ch 3, II ch 6-7, III ch 6

Education I ch 6, IV, ch 8

Law I ch 6, II ch 6-7, IV ch 5-7

Rationality / reason III ch 2, IV ch 8

Women and sexuality III ch 1 and 5, III ch 2 (latter part), IV ch 7 (Yahoos and gender roles)

The body II ch 4, IV ch 6 (diseases)

Science III ch 5 (the Academy)

Travel I ch 8

War / the army IV ch 5

Class III ch 8, IV ch 6 (end)

Trade IV ch 6

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