

Liverpool John Moores University

Title: 1660s - 1680s: Cultural Intersections in Restoration England
Status: Definitive
Code: **6106ENGL** (122147)
Version Start Date: 01-08-2021

Owning School/Faculty: Humanities and Social Science
Teaching School/Faculty: Humanities and Social Science

Team	Leader
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Academic Level: FHEQ6 **Credit Value:** 20 **Total Delivered Hours:** 39

Total Learning Hours: 200 **Private Study:** 161

Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Semester 2

Component	Contact Hours
Lecture	11
Seminar	22
Tutorial	2
Workshop	4

Grading Basis: 40 %

Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Portfolio	AS1	Portfolio of written work including: a critical essay; a webpage or online discussion contribution; and a seminar position statement and analysis.	100	

Aims

1. Examine the ways in which literary texts and cultural trends in post-Restoration England represent the interests of different social, political, religious and gendered

groups and how the cultural positions of these groups conflict and intersect;

2. Explore the manner in which thought and cultural production in the 1660s, 70s and 80s might be characterised as recognisably and formatively modern, while also being shaped by ideas that had led to, or emerged from, the previous decades' civil war and period of republican rule;

3. Investigate ways in which the contending cultural strands of the decades following the Restoration of the monarchy produced the idea of an English national culture.

Learning Outcomes

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Produce exegetical readings of a range of texts produced in the Restoration period;
- 2 Critically respond to and interrogate methodological and literary-historical accounts relating to the period;
- 3 Demonstrate complexities of relationship between texts and contexts in the period.

Learning Outcomes of Assessments

The assessment item list is assessed via the learning outcomes listed:

Portfolio of written work	1	2	3
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Outline Syllabus

The 1660s: a historical and cultural overview

*Court culture: Restoration drama (indicative texts: *The Way of the World*; *The Man of Mode*) sports and spectacles; art and architecture; poems and perversions (John Wilmot, Earl of Rochester, Poems).*

*Nonconformist cultural consolidations: indicative texts: John Bunyan, *Grace Abounding to the Chief of Sinners*; James Naylor, 'There is a Spirit'.*

*Other cultures: colonialism, material culture and science (indicative texts: Margaret Cavendish *The Blazing World*; Aphra Behn, *Oroonoko*; Thomas Sprat, *The History of the Royal Society of London*).*

Contract culture, literary culture and nationhood: the development of social contract theories, commercial literary markets and the concept of a national, secular literature.

Learning Activities

Lectures, seminars, screenings, online discussion.

Notes

The decades following the Restoration of the Stuart monarchy in 1660 are characterised by the production of daring cultural forms that often seem recognisably modern in their thought, language, and feeling. It is the age of rakes, racing and romances. There is the development of a commercial market for non-religious literature and the beginnings of the novel; women appear as actresses on the public stage and as authors in the commercial book market; notions of participatory power relations and contract theories of government take hold; science becomes fashionable; the idea of a national literature – English literature, our own subject of study – is constructed at the same time as Britain establishes itself as a colonial power. But, while dazzling new forms and ideas appear, the culture of the period is shaped just as strongly by the ideas that had led to the civil war and period of republican rule of the 1640s and 50s. At times, it appears that there is an enormous chasm between the culture of the court and of the people. But somehow these apparently conflicting cultures intersect to produce modernity.

This module investigates cultural strands in these intense and vibrant decades, considering how there may be more complex relations between different cultures than first appears. By studying texts as varied as witty Restoration comedies, full of sexual repartee and negotiations of gender roles; early autobiographical writings, full of self-scrutinising angst; prose romances and stories of imagined worlds; and travel writings describing encounters in the new world, the module will examine the cultural dynamics of the Restoration and the extent to which it set the agenda for thought in the following centuries.