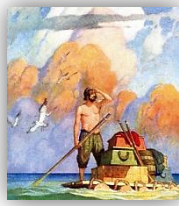


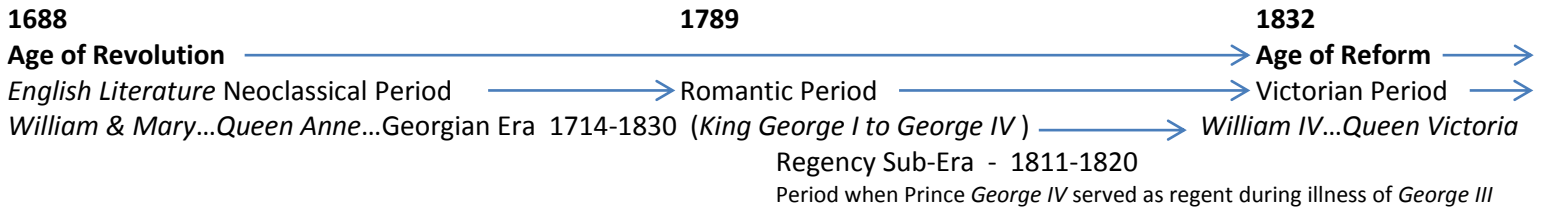
BRITISH LITERATURE LECTURE

NEOCLASSICAL PERIOD



Neoclassical Period was the first half of the Age of Revolution in England
Age of Revolution - 1688-1832

- ❖ Neoclassical Period - 1688-1789
 - From the Glorious Revolution of 1688 (beginning of the reign of William & Mary)
 - To the end of the American Revolution
- ❖ Romantic Period - 1789-1832



Features of Neoclassicism

- Reason & Rationalism & Realism** – counter-emphasis on feeling
- Qualities of **Clarity, Simplicity, Smoothness, & Polish**
- Poetic Decorum – stay within bounds of what was **Conventional** and expected
- Didacticism**- teaching & instruction within a work of literature
- Satire**- a work of literature designed to correct an evil by means of ridicule
- Heroic Couplet** – a pair of rhymed lines in iambic pentameter



England's Historic Timeline of Neoclassical Era

King William III and Mary II ruled England 1688-1702

- ❖ Mary II was Protestant daughter of Catholic James II
- ❖ The Glorious Revolution brought them to the throne!
- ❖ Protestantism restored under William & Mary



Queen Anne ruled England 1702-1714

- ❖ Protestant sister of Mary II and daughter of Catholic James II
- ❖ Continued Protestantism in England
- ❖ "The Church of Rome is wicked and dangerous", she wrote to her sister, "their ceremonies – most of them – plain downright idolatry."
- ❖ 5 children: 4 died before age 2 and 1 died at age 11
- ❖ Throne went to cousin George from Germany
- ❖ "Queen Anne" now refers to a particular architectural style and furniture style!



George I ruled England 1714-1727

- ❖ Grew up in Germany
- ❖ Jacobite Rebellion sought to put an alternate (Catholic) heir on the throne
- ❖ Not popular – the British perceived him as too German – only used English in written documents

George II ruled England 1727-1760

- ❖ Also grew up in Germany – came to England upon father's accession
- ❖ Loved England! Loved public attention! Became popular with the people
- ❖ Happily married to Catherine – he was allowed to choose his wife
- ❖ Did not get along well with his dad King George I
- ❖ Another Jacobite Rebellion attempted by Bonnie Prince Charlie - defeated at Battle of Culloden
- ❖ Died at age 77 - not survived by any of his sons – throne went to his grandson



George III ruled England 1760-1820

- ❖ Grandson of George II – son of Frederick
- ❖ Became king at age 22 – rushed to find a wife & marry before coronation
- ❖ Happily married even though he met his wife on their wedding day 15 children!
- ❖ Very devout – spent hours in prayer each day
- ❖ The English king during the **American Revolution!** :-D
- ❖ Ruled during the conflicts with France after French Revolution (1789) and Napoleonic Wars (1803-1815)
- ❖ Oft remembered as “The Mad King”
- ❖ Suffered from a mysterious mental illness
- ❖ Samples of his hair studied in 2005 revealed high levels of arsenic, possible trigger for the disease
- ❖ Bad bout of the disease from 1788-1789 / Afflicted again in 1804 for several months
- ❖ By end of 1811, George III had become permanently insane - lived in seclusion at Windsor Castle until his death.
- ❖ Son George IV ruled as regent from 1811 due to George III’s mental illness
- ❖ George was succeeded by two of his sons George IV and William IV - both died without children, leaving the throne to niece **Victoria** - last monarch of the House of Hanover! :-D
- ❖ George III lived for 81 years and 239 days and reigned for 59 years and 96 days - Only Queen Victoria and Elizabeth II lived and reigned longer.
- ❖ The Declaration of Independence's wording has contributed to the American public's perception of George as a tyrant.



This Chapter’s Authors

JOHN DRYDEN

*To My Honored Friend, Dr. Charleton
On Milton (an epigram)*

- ❖ The “first of the moderns”
- ❖ Established heroic couplets as dominant verse form
- ❖ Wrote allegorical satire



John
Dryden



Daniel
Defoe

DANIEL DEFOE

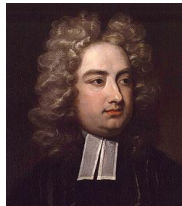
Robinson Crusoe

- ❖ Began career as Daniel Foe, a hoosier
- ❖ Ironic pamphlet landed him in the pillory, but he was applauded by crowds!
- ❖ *Robinson Crusoe* – 1719 – an allegory of his life
- ❖ Fathered genre of fictional travelogue using style of journalistic realism

JONATHAN SWIFT

Gulliver’s Travels

- ❖ His cause – the advancement of reason
- ❖ Worked as parish priest in Ireland
- ❖ Dean of St. Patrick’s Cathedral in Dublin
- ❖ Offended Queen Anne with coarseness of his satire
- ❖ Wrote biting IRONIC Pamphlets such as *A Modest Proposal for Preventing the Children of Poor People from Being a Burden to Their Parents or Country*



Jonathan Swift



Alexander
Pope

ALEXANDER POPE

Essay on Man

Essay on Criticism

- ❖ Poet
- ❖ Master of Heroic Couplet
- ❖ Master of Didacticism

ISAAC WATTS

Heavenly Joy on Earth

The Christian Race

Breathing After the Holy Spirit

Against Idleness and Mischief

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed

Joy to the World

- ❖ Wrote Sacred Poetry & HYMNS!!!!



Isaac
Watts



Charles
Wesley

JOHN AND CHARLES WESLEY

Journal of John Wesley

For the Anniversary Day of One’s Conversion

Behold the Man!

After Preaching to the Newcastle Colliers

Hark, the Herald Angles Sing

Christ the Lord is Risen Today

- ❖ Started “the Holy Club” while students at Oxford which became the Methodist denomination in America
- ❖ Became missionaries to American Indians
- ❖ Found true conversion with “Moravians” in Germany & Holland
- ❖ Took up task of bringing true conversion to England!
- ❖ Outdoor preaching (Charles 17 yrs/John 50 yrs)

This Chapter's Authors continued

SAMUEL JOHNSON

The Rambler

Lives of the English Poets

A Letter to a Young Clergyman

Dictionary of the English Language

- ❖ Attended Oxford but did not get a degree
- ❖ Aimless until married a widow who set him up to run a school
- ❖ Co-Founded The Literary Club (group of thinkers and writers)
- ❖ John Wesley visited him a great deal in his later years



Samuel Johnson

THOMAS GRAY

Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard

- ❖ Educated at Eton & Cambridge
- ❖ Poems of somber reflection
- ❖ Regarded best of mid-century poets



Thomas Gray

JAMES BOSWELL

The Life of Samuel Johnson, LLD

- ❖ Scottish lord
- ❖ Lawyer
- ❖ Friend of Samuel Johnson-wrote his biography with eye for detail



James Boswell

ROBERT BURNS

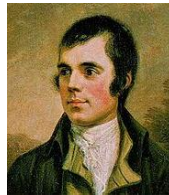
To a Mouse

To a Louse

A Red, Red Rose

Auld Lang Syne

- ❖ Scottish
- ❖ Poet who helped usher in the new Romantic poetic style with greater emphasis on personal feelings
- ❖ Reflected new cultural interest in folk art and folk poetry
- ❖ A "Natural Poet" / Rustic
- ❖ Wrote in Scottish dialect



Robert Burns

OLIVER GOLDSMITH

She Stoops to Conquer

The Vicar of Wakefield

The Deserted Village

- ❖ Literary protégé of Samuel Johnson
- ❖ Achieved excellence in four genres: Essay, Novel, Drama (satirical comedy), formal Poem of serious reflection
- ❖ *Vicar of Wakefield* satirizes English social behavior of the day
- ❖ *She Stoops to Conquer* – a comedy of manners
- ❖ *She Stoops* was staged by David Garrick at the Drury Lane Theatre in London



Oliver Goldsmith

WILLIAM COWPER

Olney Hymns

The Castaway

Sonnet to William Wilberforce, Esq.

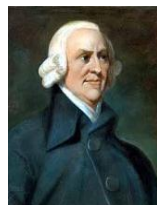
- ❖ Foremost English poet during two decades after Gray & Goldsmith
- ❖ Studied law
- ❖ Struggled with depression & even attempted suicide
- ❖ Mentored by John Newton – converted writer of *Amazing Grace*
- ❖ Despite his bouts of insanity, he was still a success



William Cowper

ADAM SMITH

Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations



Adam Smith

JOHN LOCKE

Essay on Human Understanding

Two Treatises on Government



John Locke

EDWARD GIBBON

The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire



Edward Gibbon