Is the 2015 film *The Martian* a *Robinson Crusoe* narrative for the 21st century? What does the cultural meaning of the musical *Hamilton* owe to 18th-century British thinkers? Have you ever dreamed of living in a Jane Austen novel only to realize you would be scrubbing floors at Pemberley rather than dancing on them? Come explore these questions and more in ENGL 441, 18th-Century British Literature: Texts and Adaptations.

**Course Description:** This course juxtaposes 18th-century British and colonial texts with contemporary adaptations to consider relationships between meaning then and now. We will begin with Daniel Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe* (1720) before discussing J.M. Coetzee’s novella *Foe* (1986) and the 2015 film *The Martian*. Then, we will hop back and forth across the pond to explore some of the foundational texts of the early American republic that inform the hit musical *Hamilton* (2015), including writing that interrogated the gaps between the theory and practice that “all men are created equal.” Finally, we will read Jane Austen’s *Pride and Prejudice* (1814); watch some film, TV, and YouTube adaptations of the novel; and read Jo Baker’s *Longbourn* (2013), a retelling of the story from the perspective of a Bennet family servant. Adaptation, postcolonial, feminist, and critical race theories as well as historical contextual scholarship will inform our exploration of issues including new media in the literary marketplace, national identity, class consciousness, gender roles, commercialization, colonial expansion, and contention over human rights. Expect to participate in a discussion-based class, write short literary textual analyses, and conduct research to craft a web-based adaptation final project. **Class fulfills:** a Pre-1800 British Literature elective for English majors and minors, the University Humanities Elective requirement, a Gender and Diversity Studies elective, a Diversity Flag.
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