

Christopher Wren Association

The Social Satire of William Hogarth (1697-1764)

*Course: AM B07
Fall 2011*



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Course Plan

Session 1: The “Modern Moral Subject”: 1697-1735

- Introduction
- 18th-c tradition of satire
- Hogarth’s beginnings
- “South Sea Bubble” and “The Bad Taste of the Town”
- Conversation Paintings
- A new subject—a new mode

Session 2: High Life and Low, High Art and Low: 1736-1750

- *A Harlot’s Progress*
- Hogarth’s Act, 1735
- *A Rake’s Progress*
- *Before and After*
- *Four Times of Day*

Session 3: Art and Politics: 1750-1764

- *Marriage à la Mode*
- *Industry and Idleness*
- *Oh the Roast Beef of Old England: The Gate of Calais*
- *Beer Street and Gin Lane*
- *The Four Stages of Cruelty*
- Hogarth’s Aesthetic: *Analysis of Beauty*
- The Wilkes/Churchill Affair
- Final Assessment: “Tailpiece”
- Hogarth’s successors: Cruikshank, Rowlandson, Gilray

South Sea Bubble text:

*See here y^e Causes why in London,
So many Men are made, & undone,
That Arts, & honest Trading drop,
To Swarm about y^e Devils shop, (A)
Who Cuts out (B) Fortunes Golden Haunches,*

*Trapping their Souls with Lotts and Chances,
Shareing em from Blue Garters down
To all Blue Aprons in the Town.
Here all Religions flock together,
Like Tame and Wild Fowl of a Feather,*

*Leaving their strife Religious bustle,
Kneel down to play at pitch and Hussle; (C)
Thus when the Shepherds are at play,
Their flocks must surely go Astray;
The woeful Cause y^t in these Times*

*(E) Honour, & (D) honesty, are Crimes,
That publickly are punish'd by
(G) Self Interest, and (F) Vilany;
So much for monys magick power
Guess at the Rest you find out more.*

Harlot's Progress, Plate 3, Detail



Harlot's Progress, Plate 6, Detail



Rake's Progress, Plate 3, Detail



Rake's Progress, Plate 3, Detail



Beer Street

Beer, happy Produce of our Isle
 Can sinewy Strength impart,
 And wearied with Fatigue and Toil
 Can cheer each manly Heart

Labour and Art upheld by Thee
 Successfully advance,
 We quaff Thy balmy Juice with Glee
 And Water leave to France.

Genius of Health, thy grateful Taste
 Rivals the Cup of Jove,
 And warms each English generous Breast
 With Liberty and Love!

Gin Lane

Gin, cursed Fiend, with Fury fraught,
 Makes human Race a Prey.
 It enters by a deadly Draught
 And steals our Life away.

Virtue and Truth, driv'n to Despair
 Its Rage compells to fly,
 But cherishes with hellish Care
 Theft, Murder, Perjury.

Damned Cup! that on the Vitals preys
 That liquid Fire contains,
 Which Madness to the heart conveys,
 And rolls it thro' the Veins.

Industry and Idleness (1747), Biblical passages accompanying each plate:

- **Plate 1:** “The Fellow ‘Prentices at their Looms”
 - *Proverbs, Chap: 23 Verse: 21: The Drunkard shall come to Poverty, & drowsinefs shall cloath a Man wth rags*
 - *Proverbs, Ch:10 Ver:4: The hand of the diligent maketh rich*

- **Plate 2:** “The Industrious ‘Prentice Performing the Duties of a Christian”
 - *Psalm CXIX Ver:97:*
O! How I love thy Law it is my meditation all day
- **Plate 3:** “The Idle ‘Prentice at Play in the Church Yard, during Divine Service”
 - *Proverbs CH:XIX. Ver:29.*
Judgments are prepared for scorers & stripes for the back of Fools
 -
- **Plate 4:** “The Industrious ‘Prentice a Favourite, and entrusted by his Master”
 - *Matthew CHAP:XXV. Ve:21.*
Well done good and faithfull servant
thou hast been faithfull over a few things, I will make thee
Ruler over many things
- **Plate 5:** “The Idle ‘Prentice turn'd away, and sent to Sea”
 - *Proverbs CHAP:X. Ve:1.*
A foolish son is the heavinefs of his Mother
- **Plate 6:** “The Industrious ‘Prentice out of his Time, & Married to his Master's Daughter”
 - *Proverbs CH:XII. Ver:4.*
The Virtuous Woman is a Crown to her Husband.
- **Plate 7:** “The Idle ‘Prentice return'd from Sea, & in a Garret with common Prostitute”
 - *Leviticus CHAP:XXVI. Ve:30.*
The Sound of a Shaken Leaf shall Chace him.
- **Plate 8 :** “The Industrious ‘Prentice grown rich, & Sheriff of London”
 - *Proverbs CH:VI. Ver:7, 8.*
With all thy getting get understanding Exalt her, & she shall promote thee: she shall bring thee to honour, when thou dost Embrace her
- **Plate 9:** “The Idle ‘Prentice betrayed (by his Whore), & taken in a Night-Cellar with his Accomplice”
 - *Proverbs CHAP:VI. Ve:26.*
The Adulterefts will hunt for the precious life
- **Plate 10:** “The Industrious ‘Prentice Alderman of London, the Idle one brought before him & Impeach'd by his Accomplice”
 - *Pfalm IX. Ver:16.*
The Wicked is snar'd in the work of his own hands
 - *Leviticus CH:XIX Ve:15.*
Thou shall do no unrighteousnefs in Judgement

- **Plate 11:** “The Idle 'Prentice Executed at Tyburn”
 - *Proverbs CHAP I. Verses 27, 28.*
When fear cometh as desolation, and their destruction cometh as a Whirlwind; when distrefs cometh upon them, they shall call upon God, but he will not answer
- **Plate 12:** “The Industrious 'Prentice Lord-Mayor of London”
 - *Proverbs CHAP: III. Ver:16.*
Length of days is in her right hand, and in her left hand Riches and Honour

Analysis of Beauty: Line of Beauty



John Wilkes, detail



David Garrick's inscription on Hogarth's tombstone:

*Farewell great Painter of Mankind
Who reach'd the noblest point of Art
Whose pictur'd Morals charm the Mind
And through the Eye correct the Heart.
If Genius fire thee, Reader, stay,
If Nature touch thee, drop a Tear:
If neither move thee, turn away,
For Hogarth's honour'd dust lies here.*

Samuel Johnson's Epitaph for Hogarth

Epitaph FOR MR Hogarth.

*The hand of him here torpid lies,
That drew the essential form of grace;*

*Here clos'd in death the attentive eyes,
That saw the manners in the face.*

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Selected Readings

Primary Texts:

Hogarth, William. *Anecdotes of the Celebrated William Hogarth; With an Explanatory Description of His Works*. London, 1813. Facsimile edition printed by the British Library; includes *The Analysis of Beauty*.

Hogarth, William. *The Analysis of Beauty*, Nabu Press, 2010.

Hogarth, William. *The Five Days' Peregrination Around the Isle of Sheppey of William Hogarth and His Fellow Pilgrims, Scott, Tothall, Thornhill, and ... the Original Drawings Illustrating the Tour*, Nabu Press, 2010

Secondary Texts:

Barlow, Jeremy. *The Enraged Musician: Hogarth's Musical Imagery*. Ashgate Publishing, Ltd., 2005

Bindman, David. *Hogarth and his Times*. University of California Press, 1997

Dobson, Austin. *Hogarth*. Low, Marston, Searle, & Rivington, 1879 (University of Michigan Press, Digitalized, 2006)

Einberg, Elizabeth. *Manners & Morals: Hogarth and British painting 1700-1760*. Tate Gallery, 1987.

Fort, Bernadette and Angela Rosenthal. *The Other Hogarth: Aesthetics of Difference*. Princeton UP, 2003.

Gatrell, Vic. *City of Laughter: Sex and Satire in Eighteenth-Century London*. Walker & Co., 2006. (Focuses more on Hogarth's successors than Hogarth himself, but enlightening on the subject of visual satire in 18th-C England.)

Hallet, Mark. *Hogarth*, Phaidon Press, Ltd., 2000

Jarrett, Derek. *England in the Age of Hogarth*, Yale, 1986.

Paulson, Ronald. *Hogarth*, 3 vols. (Vol. 1, *The Modern Subject 1697-1732*; Vol. 2, *High Art and Low, 1732-1750*; Vol. 3, *Art and Politics, 1750-1764*). Rutgers University Press, 1991-93.

Quennell, Peter. *Hogarth's Progress*, Viking Press, 1955.

Rosenthal, Michael. *Hogarth*, Chaucer Press, 2005.

Shesgreen, Sean. *Hogarth 101 Prints*, Dover, 1973.

Ugnow, Jenny. *Hogarth: A Life and a World*, Farrar, Strauss, and Giroux, 1997.

Waterhouse, Ellis. *Painting in Britain: 1530-1790*, Yale, 1994.

Webster, Mary. *Hogarth*, Masterworks Press, 1978.

Media:

Hogarth's Progress [video recording]. BBC/RM Arts, Home Vision Arts, [1998], c1997.

Hogarth: English Masters. Great Artists [DVD] Cromwell Productions, Kultur, [2006].

A Harlot's Progress (2006). BBC, Koch Vision, 2008. (A fanciful account of Hogarth's experiences with the "Harlot" in the creation of his series; engagingly realistic portrayal of Hogarth's London, but quite imaginatively fictional plot.)

Web Resources:

The Site for Research on William Hogarth (1697-1764):

http://hogarth_scholar.fortunecity.com/

Olga's Gallery: William Hogarth (1697 – 1764).

<http://www.abcgallery.com/H/hogarth/hogarth.html>

Hogarth, Exhibition - 7 February – 29 April 2007, Tate Gallery Past Exhibits.

<http://www.tate.org.uk/britain/exhibitions/hogarth/rooms/room10.shtm>

Sir John Soane's Museum, London

http://www.soane.org/collections/the_soane_hogarths/