ENGL4460 ATS: Global Crossroads in Eighteenth-Century Literature (Spring:3.0)
Fulfills the pre-1900 requirement
Caribbean sugar, Indian spices, Chinese silk, and African gold, what was eighteenth-century "Britain" made of? The era's literature has a reputation for being obsessively nationalistic, even xenophobic. But given the influx of global goods into the country, what stories, discourses, and ideas might have come along with them? In this seminar, we will consider some international roots of the British literary tradition. The syllabus includes works by Aphra Behn, Daniel Defoe, Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, Samuel Johnson, and Olaudah Equiano. We will use criticism and supplementary materials from early modern Asia and Africa to situate these texts in global contexts.

Rebekah Mitsein

ENGL4632 Advanced Topics Seminar: Friendship, Love & Social Taboo (Spring:3.0)
This course will explore why taboo-defying relationships—in particular, interracial friendships and romances, interfaith marriages, adultery, incest, and same-sex love—have been central to American literature and cultural history. Beginning with classic nineteenth-century works by writers such as James Fenimore Cooper, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Walt Whitman, and Mark Twain, the course will move on to a study of twentieth-century writers such as Israel Zangwill, W. E. B. Du Bois, Nella Larsen, William Faulkner, James Baldwin, and Alice Walker and of cultural texts such as West Side Story and Lone Star. Readings will include literary criticism, theory, and historical documents.

Lori Harrison-Kahan