Course Focus: Eighteenth-century antiquarians collected and catalogued everything, including speech. In the 1780s, Francis Grose published *A Classical Dictionary of the Vulgar Tongue* (1785) and *A Provincial Glossary, with a Collection of Local Proverbs, and Popular Superstitions* (1787). By the 1820s, Grose’s works had been joined by James Henry Vaux’s *Vocabulary of the Flash Language* (1819) and brought up to date in a new edition by Pierce Egan, canting author of *Life in London* (1821). This course will explore antiquarianism in general and its interest in local languages in particular, from high life to low, urban to rural, in order to understand relations between orality and print culture. Treating the engagement with orality, dialect, and slang of a wide range of writers, from Wordsworth, Coleridge, and Clare to Blake, Byron, and Hazlitt to Edgeworth, Burns, and Scott, we will consider how antiquarian and other, more urbane approaches to language fashioned different politics of sociability and community; contributed to the rise of tourism; and produced new understandings of nationalism, provincialism, and cosmopolitanism.

This course will follow a “case study” model. After we devote ourselves to the primary and secondary sources respecting the subject here described, in the final month of the term each student will be free to pursue a topically and/or theoretically related case of his or her own, either from among the materials already considered or from a different period or field. Each student will then present a report to the class, which will lead to a substantial work of scholarship, grounded in the bibliography, history, and theory of orality in its relation to print culture, to be submitted at the end of the course as a term paper.

Conduct of Course: Seminar/discussion. Research paper (50%, 20 pp.), research report (20%), mini-presentation (10%), class participation (20%).

Texts: The following texts are available for purchase at the University of Toronto Bookstore (214 College Street, 416-640-7900). All primary sources not in the following texts, and all secondary sources, are available in .pdf on the course portal.

Week 1, Tuesday, January 6

Introduction: meet in the Colin Friesen Room and proceed to the Fisher Library

Week 2, Tuesday, January 13

John Pinkerton, “On the Oral Tradition of Poetry” from Scottish Tragic Ballads
Walter Scott, “Essay on Imitations of the Ancient Ballad” and “Sir Patrick Spens” from Minstrelsy of the Scottish Border

- Marilyn Butler, “Antiquarianism (Popular)”
- Maureen N. McLane, “Mediating Antiquarians in Britain, 1760-1830: The Invention of Oral Tradition; or, Close Reading before Coleridge”
- Paula McDowell, “Mediating Media Past and Present: Toward a Genealogy of ‘Print Culture’ and ‘Oral Tradition’”

Week 3, Tuesday, January 20

William Wordsworth, Lyrical Ballads (1800) [we will focus on the “Preface” along with “Simon Lee,” “The Idiot Boy,” “Hart-Leap Well,” and “The Old Cumberland Beggar”], “Song at the Feast of Brougham Castle”
Francis Jeffrey, review of Robert Southey’s Thalaba in the Edinburgh Review
William Blake, Songs of Innocence and of Experience

- McLane, from Balladeering, Minstrelsy, and the Making of British Romantic Poetry [160-68, 212-20, 225-30]

Week 4, Tuesday, January 27

John Keats, “The Eve of St. Agnes”

- John Barrell, from The Idea of Landscape and the Sense of Place: An Approach to the Poetry of John Clare
- McLane, from Balladeering, Minstrelsy, and the Making of British Romantic Poetry [168-75]

Week 5, Tuesday, February 3

Maria Edgeworth, Castle Rackrent
Robert Burns, “Tam O’Shanter. A Tale”

- Katie Trumpener, from Bardic Nationalism: the Romantic Novel and the British Empire
Week 6, Tuesday, February 10

Samuel Johnson, Preface to *A Dictionary of the English Language*
Francis Grose, from *A Classical Dictionary of the Vulgar Tongue; A Provincial Glossary, with a Collection of Local Proverbs, and Popular Superstitions; and Lexicon Balatronicum. A Dictionary of Buckish Slang, University Wit, and Pickpocket Eloquence*
Samuel Pegge, from *Anecdotes of the English Language: chiefly regarding the Local Dialect of London and its Environs*
James Henry Vaux, *Vocabulary of the Flash Language New Monthly Magazine,* “Cant”

- M. A. K. Halliday, “Anti-Languages”
- Janet Sorenson, “Vulgar Tongues: Canting Dictionaries and the Language of the People in Eighteenth-Century Britain”

Week 7, Tuesday, February 17 (Reading Week)

Week 8, Tuesday, February 24

Pierce Egan, *Life in London; or The Day and Night Scenes of Jerry Hawthorn Esq and his Elegant Friend Corinthian Tom, in their Rambles and Sprees through the Metropolis*

- Gregory Dart from *Metropolitan Art and Literature, 1810-1840*
- Jonathan Farina, “Flash Romanticism: The Currency of Urban Knowledge in Tom & Jerry”

Week 9, Tuesday, March 3

Byron, selections from *Don Juan*
Hazlitt, “On Familiar Style”

- Gary Dyer, “Thieves, Boxers, Sodomites, Poets: Being Flash to Byron’s Don Juan”

Week 10, Tuesday, March 10: Mini-presentations: provisional articulation of research project

Week 11, Tuesday, March 17: Mini-presentations: provisional articulation of research project

Week 12, Tuesday, March 24: Research reports

Week 13, Tuesday, March 31: Research reports

*Tuesday, April 7, Research Papers Due in Massey College Library Office, 2:00 p.m.*