**Early Modern Center Colloquium on Genre: from Milton to *The Monk***

**For the sake of this colloquium, we’ll use a very broad definition of “genre.” Derived from the French word *genre*, meaning “kind”, genre came to denote “a** particular style or category of work or literary composition, characterized by a particular form, style, or purpose.” (OED) Although the term ‘genre’ was most widely applied to imaginative literary works, for analytical purposes we’ll apply it to the broad Renaissance and Enlightenment sense of literature, as including all the forms of letters and writing for the sake of learning. **We focus most of our study upon the long 18th century (1660-1820) because the expansion of print and trade and the institution of literary criticism made this a period when old genres were collected and studied, and new genres and formats of writing were invented and developed.**

So for our **study, we will select from an open set of genres: genres related to the advancement of knowledge, from the journal article reporting experimental findings to dictionaries and encyclopedia; newspapers and magazines; ballads and ballad collections; systems and essays; musical theater; natural histories; and a host of genres of a more literary kind, from epic, mock epic and georgic to the sentimental and gothic novel. We hope that by ranging across this very broad set of genres we will make headway with questions of historical and theoretical interest: what is a ‘genre’? how are the traits of each genre specified? how does history, with its stories of origin, translation, and mutation, implicate genre? Are genres the ‘main characters’ of literary history? what role does it play in networking authors and readers and getting them to share common protocols for reading? How do genres enable networking and communication?**

**Pragmatics: Faculty leader—Bill Warner; the Colloquium meets 4-5 times a quarter for 2 hour meetings on Friday at 10AM in the EMC seminar room. The colloquium will be offered for graduate credit for a small core of registering students (who will write paper or dissertation chapter for Spring quarter); auditors and members of the UCSB intellectual community are most welcome but should register if possible.**

**Topics and discussion leaders (UCSB faculty and grad students and selected visitors); brief readings for each colloquium will be posted on the EMC website.**

**Fall 2013**

* **October 4: Warner: organizational meeting where colloquium participants will discuss examples of genres of interest to them**
* October 25: Warner: Advanced Genre Theory: Jacques Derrida, "The Law of Genre"(1980), and Ralph Cohen, "History and Genre" (1986)
* **November 1: Anne Maurseth, UCSB, French, The Genres of Enlightenment Chance in Mathematics, Philosophy and Fiction**
* **November 15: Arthur Morotti, Wayne State University, Anthologies**
* **December 6: Elisa Tamarkin, UC/ Berkeley, “Relevance and the Newspaper”**

**Winter 2014**

* **January 31: Ken Hiltner, UCSB, English, “The Genres of *Paradise Lost”***
* **February 14: Elizabeth Cook, UCSB, English “Natural History and Gilbert White”**
* **February 28: Jim Kearney with graduate student team, UCSB, English, “On the Romance”**
* **March 7: Patricia Fumerton, UCSB, English: the history of the collection, curation and criticism of the Renaissance ballad: Pepys, Percy, etc.**

**Spring 2014 (Dates to be determined)**

* **Jeremy Chow, UCSB, English, “The invention of the genre of the gothic: from Walpole’s *Otranto* to Lewis’s *The Monk*”**
* **Ann Plane, UCSB, History: Early American Dreams and Visions**
* **Warner: examples of the morphing and plasticity of genre (e.g. the ‘rise of the novel,’ the long history of the newspaper)**
* **May 9: Deidre Lynch, U. of Toronto, The Commonplace Book (or the Essay)**

**The Colloquium on Genre: Invitation for organizational meeting.**

**UCSB grad students and faculty are invited to the organizational meeting of the Colloquium on Genres of the Enlightenment. At the meeting the convener, Bill Warner, will discuss the plan for this year-long EMC colloquium and lead an informal discussion of particular genres that interest members of the colloquium. All are welcome.**