In this eccentric novel, Sterne breaks (or at least bends) all of the recently established rules of novel writing, astonishing his readers and leaving scholars to wonder if he completed the work (the final volume was published shortly before his death) or meant for it to continue. In this mini-course we will dive into the novel and explore how Sterne breaks these novelistic conventions and comments on his culture and on art. We will consider how the novel is both a product of the 18th century and a forerunner of contemporary novels – after all, a character in the film “version” Tristram Shandy: A Cock and Bull Story calls the novel “a post-modern novel before modernism had even been invented.”

Your grade will be based on participation, reading responses, question papers, and an expanded paper.