Sacred Satire: Lampooning Religious Belief in Eighteenth-Century Britain
Master Class at the Lewis Walpole Library, Yale University
Friday, September 30, 2011

Misty Anderson, Associate Professor of English, University of Tennessee, will lead a one-day seminar for Yale graduate students. The course will explore satiric images of Dissenters, Methodists, and Roman Catholics, as well as established Anglican clergy. The irreverent humor of these amusing and sometimes biting images reveals the contested place of religion, both conforming and non-conforming, in eighteenth-century Britain. While satirical attacks on religion and the clergy reach back to antiquity, eighteenth-century graphic artists and their literary counterparts seized on anti-clerical themes with fresh vigor. This seminar will examine a range of comic representations of corruption, hypocrisy, and greed as they reflect the conflicts and tensions inherent in the challenge of incorporating old and new religious practices and beliefs into the British enlightenment.

The course is offered in conjunction with the exhibition “Sacred Satire: Lampooning Religious Belief in Eighteenth-Century Britain,” curated by Professor Anderson with Cynthia Roman, Curator of Prints, Drawings, and Paintings at the Lewis Walpole Library. The exhibition opens 22 September 2011.

For registration or for further information, please contact Cynthia Roman at 860 677-2140 or cynthia.roman@yale.edu. The number of participants is limited.