

English 467: The Romantic Age

Prof. Jim Garrett

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Course Information

Prerequisites: Upper division standing is prerequisite to enrollment in 400-level courses. ENGL 102 or its equivalent is prerequisite to all upper division English courses. Prerequisite for all literature courses: ENGL 250, or 200A, 200B or 200C unless otherwise stated.

Description: The “Romantic Age” in British literature has been variously defined as beginning in 1798, 1789, 1770, or 1750, and ending in 1830, 1832, 1837, or 1850. While critics disagree about the exact historical boundaries of British Romanticism, most agree that political, social, philosophical and cultural changes at the end of the eighteenth century coincided with and/or brought about changes in literary forms and values. Our examination of Romanticism in Britain will focus on significant historical, cultural and literary trends that combine to produce multiple and competing “Romanticisms.”

Objectives: Students in ENGL 467 will learn to

- Understand the major developments and major figures in British literary history from the last few decades of the eighteenth century through the 1830s;
- Understand the mutual relationship between historical and cultural context and literary form and production, specifically the effect of the Enlightenment, the French Revolution, and debates about slavery, human rights, and women’s rights;
- Understand the role of developing theories of perception, cognition, and the human mind in shaping literary form and content;
- Engage in critical discussions of language and literature;
- Continue development on becoming better readers, writers and thinkers through frequent discussions, examinations, presentations and writing tasks;
- Continue improving the ability to think critically about texts (in whatever form encountered).

Ultimately, each of us must consider the acts of reading and writing as ways of making the world, of making it cohere or come apart, of inscribing it with purpose and meaning.

Course Requirements: Except for the two novels, the *quantity* of reading required in this class is not significant. Because much of the reading is poetry and at times is difficult and philosophically dense, you must be prepared not merely to read but re-read and think deeply about your reading. You will need to be diligent about planning ahead and completing your tasks on time. Listed below are the required assignments for this course:

1. Five reading responses (approximately 500-750 words in length) out of a total of ten response assignments—**NO LATE RESPONSES ACCEPTED**. (5% each; total of 25% of course grade)
2. One short (4-5 page) essay (25% of course grade)
3. A mid-term exam (short answer questions and identifications, and one essay question) (20% of course grade)
4. A final exam (short answer questions and identifications, and one or two essay question) (25% of course grade)
5. Attendance, punctuality, participation, effort (5% of course grade)

In order to pass this course all assignments (papers and exams) must be legitimately attempted. Plagiarism (see description below) does NOT constitute a legitimate attempt of the assignment.

Texts

The following texts are required for this class:

Austen, Jane. *Sense and Sensibility*. New York: Penguin. (ISBN-10: 0141439661)

Shelley, Mary. *Frankenstein: The 1818 Text*. New York: Norton. (ISBN-10: 0393964582)

Wolfson, Manning, eds. *The Longman Anthology of British Literature, Volume 2A*.
Fourth Edition. New York: Longman. (ISBN-10: 0205655289)

The following texts are recommended for this class (they have not been ordered and therefore are not available in the bookstore but readily available elsewhere):

A Literary Terms Guide—Abrams, *Glossary of Literary Terms* (Wadsworth, 2011);
Cuddon, *Penguin Dictionary of Literary Terms and Literary Theory* (Penguin, 2000);
Harmon, *A Handbook to Literature* (Prentice-Hall, 2011)

A Format/Style Guide—Gibaldi, *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* (MLA, 2009); *The Chicago Manual of Style* (Univ. of Chicago, 2010); Turabian, et al, *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* (Univ. of Chicago, 2007);
Williams, *Style: Lessons in Clarity and Grace* (Longman, many editions available)

Policies

Reasonable Accommodations: Reasonable accommodation will be provided to any student who is registered with the Office of Students with Disabilities and requests needed accommodation.

Grading Policy: The distribution of points for the individual assignments in this course is listed in “Requirements” above. Course grades are based on standard percentages (i.e. 90% and greater is some version of an A, 80%-89% is some version of a B and so on). Plus and minus grades are used in the class.

Electronic Devices: The classroom is an electronics-free zone. No exceptions except where required to comply with university accessibility requirements.

Contacting the Instructor: Email is the most effective way of communicating with me outside of class and my office hours. However, be reasonable. If you email me at 2:00 AM, the morning before a paper is due, don't expect a response.

Attendance: Attendance is mandatory. I will take attendance at the start of every class. If you are not present I will mark you absent. Arriving late will count as half of an absence. You are allowed one absence without penalty. Each absence beyond the first one will reduce your course grade. If you miss more than 20% of the scheduled class meetings you will be disqualified from taking the final and therefore will fail the class.

Please read the assigned texts before class. Often I will offer some guidelines about future reading assignments in class. For example, I might tell you to focus on a particular text for the next class meeting. If you are absent, you are responsible for getting the assignment from a classmate.

Written Assignments: Please note the following carefully when preparing your written assignments for this class:

- Written assignments must be typed following standard formatting practices for college writing—use a readable type style and size (12 point type), indent paragraphs, double space between lines, and use one inch margins. Any style guide will contain information on formatting your written assignments for submission.
- Before handing in written assignments, edit and proofread your work carefully.
- Do not use plastic covers or report folders or title pages on your written assignments. Each assignment, though, should have your name, the course number, the date, and my name on separate lines (double-spaced) in the upper left corner of the first page. If the paper has a title, center it on the first page, after the above information.
- Use page numbers and place them in the upper right corner of the page. If you are uncertain how to have word processing software generate the correct page number in the header of your document, ask someone in one of the labs.
- MLA format and style conventions should be followed for all written assignments (essays and responses). For more information on MLA format and style conventions, see *The MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, the appropriate section of a recent (published after 2000) writer's handbook, or one of the many reputable online sources.
- Late papers are not accepted. The assignment due dates are distributed on the first day of class, and the assignments are made available often weeks before they are due.

Academic Dishonesty/Cheating: Collaborating with others is encouraged when you are planning your papers, reviewing each other's work, preparing for presentations or for exams. Study or reading groups can be effective ways to study and learn. When you write your papers, however, the text needs to be your own.

You must carefully observe the standard rules for acknowledging the sources of words and ideas. If you make use of a phrase or a quote or if you paraphrase another writer's words or ideas, you must acknowledge the source of these words or ideas telling us the source of these materials. Use MLA format for citations. If you are unsure whether you need to cite or not, please ask me. (The

general rule is if you think you might need to cite, then you probably do.) Failure to cite your sources properly might be construed as plagiarism, which is a violation of the university's academic honesty policy and grounds for failing the course, disciplinary action, and/or expulsion. If you plagiarize or otherwise misrepresent the source of your work, you will receive a zero on the assignment and be reported to the Student Disciplinary Officer. For definition and policy see statement on Academic Honesty in the current Schedule of Classes or on line at <http://www.calstatela.edu/univ/stuaffrs/jao/doc/ah.pdf>.

Schedule

| | Page numbers refer to <i>Longman Anthology of British Literature</i> , Volume 2A, 4 th Edition (all selections available in 3 rd edition) | Assignment |
|-------|--|--|
| 9/22 | Barbauld , "The Mouse's Petition to Dr. Priestley" (62-3); Wordsworth , "I wandered lonely as a cloud" (512); Coleridge , "Kubla Khan" (602-604) (recommended) "Romantics and Their Contemporaries" (7-33) | |
| 9/27 | "The Rights of Man and the Revolution Controversy" (104); Burke , from <i>Reflections on the Revolution in France</i> (109-118); Paine , "The Rights of Man" (127-134); Blake , <i>The Marriage of Heaven and Hell</i> (188-201) | Response on <i>The Marriage of Heaven and Hell</i> due |
| 9/29 | Wordsworth , Preface to <i>Lyrical Ballads</i> (394-406); selections (373-394); Jeffrey , "[the new poetry]" (429-432); Coleridge , "This Lime Tree Bower My Prison" (561-563) | Response on "This Lime Tree Bower My Prison" due |
| 10/4 | Wordsworth , "Michael" (419-429) | Response on "Michael" due |
| 10/6 | "The Abolition of Slavery and the Slave Trade" (214-215); Prince , "The History of Mary Prince" (224-229); Barbauld , "Epistle to William Wilberforce, Esq." (245-247); Blake , <i>Songs of Innocence and Experience</i> (163-88) | Response on one of Blake's songs due |
| 10/11 | Wollstonecraft , "Vindication of the Rights of Woman" (288-308) | |
| 10/13 | Barbauld , <i>Eighteen Hundred Eleven</i> (68-77); Croker , "Review" (76-77); Hemans , "The Wife of Asdrubal" (836-838), "Properzia Rossi" (850-853) | Response on <i>Eighteen Hundred Eleven</i> due |
| 10/18 | Austen , <i>Sense and Sensibility</i> (books 1 and 2) | |
| 10/20 | Austen , <i>Sense and Sensibility</i> (finish book) | |
| 10/25 | MIDTERM | |
| 10/27 | "The Sublime, the Beautiful, and the Picturesque" (34-37); Burke (37-43); Kant (44-46); Wordsworth , "There was a Boy" (407), "Nutting" (411-413), from <i>The Prelude</i> , Book 11, lines 243-389 (492-496), Book 13, lines 1-184 (496-500) | |

| | Page numbers refer to <i>Longman Anthology of British Literature</i> , Volume 2A, 4 th Edition (all selections available in 3 rd edition) | Assignment |
|-------|---|---|
| 11/1 | Coleridge , “Frost at Midnight” (563-565); Wordsworth , “Ode: Intimations of Immortality from Recollections of Early Childhood” (513-519) | Response on “Ode: Intimations of Immortality” due |
| 11/3 | Coleridge , “The Rime of the Ancient Mariner” (567-582) | |
| 11/8 | Byron , <i>Manfred</i> (647-683) | Response on <i>Manfred</i> due |
| 11/10 | Percy Shelley , “Ode to the West Wind” (794-796), “To a Sky-Lark” (796-798); excerpts from <i>Prometheus Unbound</i> (online) | Response on excerpts from <i>Prometheus Unbound</i> due |
| 11/15 | Keats , <i>The Eve of St. Agnes</i> (893-904), “La belle dame sans merci” (906-907) | |
| 11/17 | Keats , “Ode to a Nightingale” (911-913), “Ode on a Grecian Urn” (913-915), “Ode on Melancholy” (917-918), “To Autumn” (918-919) | Response on one of Keats’ odes due |
| 11/22 | Byron , Canto 1 of <i>Don Juan</i> (720-766) | Response on <i>Don Juan</i> due |
| 11/24 | Thanksgiving Holiday | |
| 11/29 | Mary Shelley , <i>Frankenstein</i> | |
| 12/1 | Mary Shelley , <i>Frankenstein</i> | Paper Due |
| 12/6 | Final Examination 1:30-4:00pm | |