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2021

Fall 8-15-2021

ENG 3806-001: British Romantic Literature

Randy Beebe

Eastern Illinois University

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Beebe, Randy, "ENG 3806-001: British Romantic Literature" (2021). *Fall 2021*. 76.
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British Romanticism 1780-1830

Prof. R. Beebe
rlbeebe@eiu.edu

MWF 1-1:50 pm
CH 3691

TEXTS

British Literature, 1780-1830,
ed. A. Mellor, R. Matlak

J. Austen, *Pride & Prejudice*
(1813)

J. Austen, *Mansfield Park*
(1814)

M. Shelley, *Frankenstein*
(1818/1831)

REQUIREMENTS

2 Papers (4-6 pages)	30%
Midterm exam	15%
Response Papers & Quizzes	20%
Presentation	10%
Final exam	15%
Participation	10%

Office Hours: M,W 9-12; R 10-12
or by appt.

Coleman Hall 3841

Schedule an online meeting: <https://calendly.com/rlbeebe>

Course Description

In this course we will study British literature from 1780-1830, a historical and cultural period known as Romanticism—one of the most dynamic periods in British literary history. We will survey a range of writers in several genres, reading some of the most influential writers of the period whose work is still vibrant today. Besides working towards a sharper and more nuanced understanding of romanticism, we also consider how the period and is relevant to the 21st century and whether we still might be living within a “romantic” sensibility.

Bliss was it in that dawn to be alive,
But to be young was very Heaven! . . .
Not in Utopia,—subterranean fields,—
Or some secreted island, Heaven knows where!
But in the very world, which is the world
Of all of us,—the place where, in the end,
We find our happiness, or not at all!

William Wordsworth, *The Prelude*

Conferences

I'm happy to meet with you at anytime to discuss any questions about the material or your progress. The reading can sometimes be challenging and I'm eager to help. I'm also open to working with you on drafts of your paper.

We can meet in my office during office hours or via Zoom.

<https://calendly.com/rlbeebe>

Course Format

Since the writers and texts of this 50-year period are many and diverse, I have structured the course to be primarily a reading course. You will complete weekly response papers, quizzes, and online discussions, which will help with your comprehension of the material and help foster classroom discussion.

Writing Assignments

The formal writing assignments are relatively short paper 4-5 pages, and for each one you will receive an assignment sheet with multiple options. I encourage you to find ways to shape the assignments to your interests, which may include multimodal and creative projects.



Response Papers

You will write response papers frequently, which vary in their tasks and roles. These are usually just a single page, relatively informal writing, where you may be asked to answer a specific question for class discussion, or raise questions from your reading that you post online prior to class, or use a way to identify possible topics for your formal papers. Response papers are completion tasks. As long as you meet the minimal guidelines you will receive full credit. Papers turned in late—without prior approval or official excused absence—will receive partial credit.

COVID-19 & Attendance Policy

I follow closely EIU's policy on attendance and its definition of un/excused absences, especially in regard to its Covid policy. Accordingly, this course is structured to be flexible and accommodating to students' needs and circumstances during the pandemic. If you don't feel well, you should not attend class.

However, I ask that you follow all the guidelines, including documenting your illness/quarantine with Health Services. In addition, keep in contact with me about your status so that I can assist you in setting up alternative activities or due dates. Five (5) or more unexcused, non-Covid-related absences will severely affect your final grade and may warrant failing the course.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to maintain principles of academic integrity and conduct as defined in EIU's Code of Conduct (<http://www.eiu.edu/judicial/studentconductcode.php>). Violations will be reported to the Office of Student Standards.

This policy includes plagiarism, where, even if unknowing or accidental, can result in your failing the course and in further action by the university. Please note the English Department's statement on plagiarism. Any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism—"The appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and/ or thoughts of another author, and representation of them as one's own original work" (Random House Dictionary of the English Language)—has the right and the responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including immediate assignments, of a grade of F for the assigned essay and a grade of F for the course, and to report the incident to the Office of Student Standards. If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism, feel free to ask me to clarify.

Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with a documented disability in need of accommodations to fully participate in this class, please contact the Office of Student Disability Services (OSDS). All accommodations must be approved through OSDS. Please stop by McAfee Gym, Room 1210, or call 217-581-6583 to make an appointment.

Student Success Center

Students who are having difficulty achieving their academic goals are encouraged to contact the Student Success Center (www.eiu.edu/~success) for assistance with time management, test taking, note taking, avoiding procrastination, setting goals, and other skills to support academic achievement. The Student Success Center provides individualized consultations. To make an appointment, call 217-581-6696, or go to McAfee Gym, Room 1301.

Reading Schedule

You will find the reading schedule in a separate document in D2L, which includes due dates for the exams and major writing projects.