Fall 8-15-1997

ENG 3806-002: English Romantic Literature

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Office Hours:
MW 11:00-12:00;
TR 2:30-3:30
or by appointment

ENG 3806.002: English Romantic Literature
Course Outline and Syllabus

All readings are from Heath's MRP unless otherwise noted. Abbreviations are keyed to the course description. Reserve readings are recommended but optional and may be completed during the week that follows discussion or as soon as possible. The syllabus is tentative; I'll announce adjustments as necessary.

August

I. Backgrounds and Historical Contexts

M 25: Course introduction; "Romanticism" (Handout)
W 27: "Premises and Backgrounds..." (Handout)
F 29: "Premises and Backgrounds..." (continued)
Wordsworth: "London 1802" (270) and "Extempore Effusion..." (395); Coleridge: "France: An Ode" (465); Shelley: "England in 1819" (905).

September

M 1: Labor Day--no class
W 3: "Premises and Backgrounds..." (continued); Day, Chap. 1
F 5: "Introduction" (MRP ); Wollstonecraft and Godwin (handout)

II. William Blake: Vision, Prophecy and History

M 8: All Religions Are One and There Is No Natural Religion [a & b] (49-50 and as handouts)
W 10: Blake's "illuminated engravings": a slide show
F 12: The Book of Thel (23-25)
M 15: Songs of Innocence (18-22): specific poems for discussion announced in class; see Oxford edition of SIR as well; assignment: essay #1
W 17: Songs of Experience (53-60): specific poems for discussion announced in class
F 19: (continued)

M 22: The Marriage of Heaven and Hell (32-38); see Oxford edition
W 24: Visions of the Daughters of Albion (42-46)
F 26: (continued)

M 29: Review of Blake and the Myth of The Four Zoas (67-83)

October

III. The Lyrical Ballads: The Poetics of Imagination

W 1: On Wordsworth (inLR): "Introduction"; "Expostulation and Reply"; "The Tables Turned" (104-106); "Preface" (241-272)
F 3: "Tintern Abbey"(113-118)
M 6: On Coleridge: "The Nightingale..." (40-44)
W 8: "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner" (LB 9-35 or in MBP 448-456)
   (Ideally, read both versions); take-home midterm exam
F 10: (continued) Essay #1 DUE

M 13: (Wordsworth) "The Old Cumberland Beggar" (205-211)
W 15: "Michael, A Pastoral" (226-240)
F 17: Midterm Examination

IV. Wordsworth: Reconsiderations--The Human Face of Nature,
or the Nature of Humanity?

M 20: "Resolution and Independence" (in MBP 263-265)
   Assignment: essay #2
W 22: "Ode" (257-259); "On the 'Ode!'" (handout)
F 24: (continued)

M 27: Excerpts from The Thirteen-Book Prelude (278-358; doubtless
   you'll want to read the Prelude in its entirety, but, depending
   on our energies at this point, I'll announce
   specific passages for class discussion purposes...
W 29: (continued)
F 31: Review of Wordsworth

November

V. Coleridge: Reconsiderations--Despondent Flights

M 3: [MBP]: "The Eolian Harp" (441-442); "This Lime-Tree Bower My
   Prison" (446); "Frost at Midnight" (464); MBP 421-425.
W 5: "Kubla Khan" (474); "Dejection: An Ode" (488)
F 7: Excerpts from Biographia Literaria (515-518)

VI. Keats--Negative Capability in a Brutal World

M 10: "On First Looking..." (1013); "When I have fears.." (1039);
   "Ode to a Nightingale" (1078); MBP 991-996
W 12: "Ode on a Grecian Urn" (1079); Letters: to BB (1103), to G &
   TK (1105), to RW (1110), to FB (1122), to PBS (1123) and to
   CB (1123)
F 14: "Ode to Melancholy" (1080)

M 17: "The Eve of St Agnes" (1069-1073)
W 19: (continued)
F 21: Review of Keats

Thanksgiving Recess

December

VI. Byron and Shelley: Dark Satire--"Intoxicating Moments"

M 1: Shelley: "Hymn to Intellectual Beauty" (797); "Mount
   Blanc..." (798); MBP 773-777
W 3: "Ode to the West Wind" (903); "The Necessity of Atheism"
   (974);"A Defense of Poetry..." (975-989): as much of it as
   you possibly can..
F 5: (continued) Review of Shelley
M 8: Byron: "Maid of Athens" (558); "She Walks in Beauty" (577);
"Darkness" (handout)
W 10: Review of Romanticism
F 12: (continued) Essay # 2 DUE

Final Examination: Wednesday, December 17, 2:45-4:45 pm
Description: The course will focus on the major poets of the Romantic Movement in England: Blake, Wordsworth, Coleridge, Shelley, Keats and Byron. Although our attention will be on close readings of selected poems, we will also read selected theoretical prose pieces by the poets. Our preoccupation will be with the themes and characteristics of High Romanticism as a literary movement: the spontaneous, experiential, interior sense of art; the freedom of the self from the constraints of decorum; the isolation (sometimes alienation) of self-consciousness; the values of desire and the joys of sensuality; and, the distrust of logical inquiry in the development of subjective knowledge. We will also seek to place these themes in the context of the Romantics' prophetic faith in the imagination to unify the cultural changes and violence of political revolution, the rise of industrialism and the staid institution of the Church with the exuberant idealism of the individual. Along the way, if we have time, we may also question the impact and influence of Romantic ideology on modern literature and culture.

Prerequisite: Students must have completed English 1002C or its equivalent before enrolling in ENG 3806.

Format and requirements: I shall use lectures to sketch the historical, social and cultural backgrounds of the poets' texts, but, when we are considering specific poems, I shall expect students to keep up with the readings and to participate in the discussions. Reading quizzes will be given as necessary. Students will write two 6-7 page critical essays (25% each); a midterm essay examination (15%) and a final essay examination (25%); participation, including quizzes and brief assignments, will count 10%.

Course texts:

William Blake, *Songs of Innocence and Experience* (SIE)

__________, *The Marriage of Heaven and Hell* (MHH)

Coleridge and Wordsworth, *Lyrical Ballads* (LB)

Aidan Day, *Romanticism*


Library Reserve Readings:

Harold Bloom, *Romanticism and Consciousness*

Lilian Furst, *Romanticism*

Marilyn Gaul, *English Romanticism: The Human Context*

E. Hobsbawn, *The Age of Revolution, 1789-1848*

J. R. Watson, *English Poetry of the Romantic Period, 1789-1830*
The reserve texts are optional readings which may be helpful in developing your critical essays and broadening your background for assigned readings. Bloom's collection of essays and Watson's overview of the period may offer specific material on poets or poems that you choose to write on. Furst offers a solid discussion, akin to Day's book, on the development and evolution of the Romantic ideology throughout Europe; Hobsbawn discusses the political history out of which Romanticism emerges; and, Gaul covers topics briefly that sketch the cultural climate of the period.

You may also discover that you wish to peruse texts on reserve under Dr. John Kilgore's or Dr. Randall Beebe's names. If, in the course of your research, you find a text listed as on reserve, but it's not on my list, then please check the reserve listings for my colleagues who also teach Romanticism.

General Policies:

Grading Standards: I shall follow the EIU English Department Guidelines, distributed in class. In all cases, I shall use a plus and minus system to distinguish, say, a high A from a low one.

Attendance: I do take roll, and I evaluate attendance only indirectly in the context of your participation in the course (15%); however, each day in intersession is the equivalent of a week in the fifteen-week semester. Obviously, cuts--the whole two hours or the second hour--have a direct influence on your participation.

Conferences: These are at your request unless I ask to see you. Please ask for help as soon as you feel you need it; please don't wait until the last few days of class.

Submission of work: Essays should be typed, double-spaced, on one side of the paper only, titled and indicate the following: name, date, course and section number, and assignment number. Exercises and quizzes must be legible.

Late Essays: For each day that the essay is late, the letter grade will fall by one full grade: an A essay due on Friday will be an F by the next Thursday. If difficulties arise, please see me.

Plagiarism: The English Department Policy

Any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism--"The appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and/or thoughts of another author, and the 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 assignment of a grade of F for the course, and to report the incident to the Judicial Affairs Office.
If I discover an act of plagiarism, I shall exercise the right to the fullest extent possible. (See the *Handbook*, pp. 505-518, for a further discussion of what constitutes plagiarism and how to integrate properly your material from sources.)

**Students with Disabilities:**

If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.