Fall 8-15-2000

ENG 3806-002: English Romantic Literature

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Course Description and Design: This course is designed as a survey of the Romantic Period - that is, English Literature 1780-1830. Our reading will include poetry, fiction, drama, and non-fictional prose, so that we can get a broad view of writing from the period. Some writers will be familiar, but some may not since I have made an effort to include works that reflect recent developments in period canon formation. Our goal is to read and to discuss each work carefully in the context of important philosophical ideas, political issues, and social developments. Though I will deliver some background material as lecture, most of our class time will be devoted to discussion and other group work. Our classroom is also equipped with the latest computer technology, which we will utilize on a regular basis to supplement our reading of Romantic Literature.

Texts: Mellor and Matlak, eds. British Literature 1780-1830

Requirements and grading:

- careful preparation of the readings listed in the syllabus
- regular participation in class discussions and web forum, including a collaborative project – 20%
- brief paper on an assigned topic – 30%
- mid-term exam – 25%
- final exam – 25%

you must complete all of the above requirements to pass the course

Tentative Schedule:

Aug. 22: introduction to course; web forum group assignments


Aug. 29: Blake, The Marriage of Heaven and Hell

Aug. 31: Blake, Songs of Innocence

Sept. 5: Blake, Songs of Experience
Sept. 7: Wordsworth, *Lyrical Ballads, With a Few Other Poems*

Sept. 12: Coleridge, *Lyrical Ballads*


Sept. 19: *Rights of Women* (Macaulay, Hays, Lamb)


Sept. 26: Edgeworth, *Letters from Literary Ladies; Belinda*; Barbauld, "On a Lady's Writing"; "To a Lady, with Some Painted Flowers"; "On the Origin and Progress of Novel-Writing"

Sept. 28: Austen, *Sense and Sensibility* or *Persuasion*

Oct. 3: Austen, *Sense and Sensibility* or *Persuasion*

Oct. 5: *Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Abolition in Britain* (Cugoano, Cowper, Southey, Opie)

Oct. 10: Olaudah Equiano, *Narrative*; Mary Prince, *History*

Oct. 12: **mid-term exam**

Oct. 17: Wordsworth, "Ode, Intimations"; "Resolution and Independence"; selected sonnets

Oct. 19: Coleridge, "Christabel"; "Kubla Khan"; "The Pains of Sleep"


Oct. 26: Percy Shelley, *The Cenci*

Oct. 31: Mary Shelley, *Mathilda* 1-4

Nov. 2: Mary Shelley, *Mathilda* 5-8

Nov. 7: Mary Shelley, *Mathilda* 9-12

Nov. 9: Byron, "Letter to Lady Byron"; "Letter to Augusta Leigh" (1816 and 1819); *Poems* (1816); "Darkness"; "Prometheus"
Nov. 14: Byron, Manfred

Nov. 16: Byron, Don Juan (Canto I); paper due

Nov. 21, 23: Thanksgiving recess

Nov. 28: Keats, "On First Looking into Chapman's Homer"; "Sleep and Poetry"; "On Seeing the Elgin Marbles"

Nov. 30: Keats, The Eve of St. Agnes

Dec. 5: Keats, "Ode to a Nightingale"; "Ode on a Grecian Urn"; "To Autumn"

Dec. 7: Keats, Letters, 1261-1277; 1308-1310; "Bright Star"; "When I have fears"

Dec. 11-16: final exam -- date and time to be announced

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.

English Department 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) – 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."