Fall 8-15-2007

ENG 3806-001: British Romantic Literature

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This course examines the literature and history of British Romanticism through the concept of the “survey.” The term survey has several meanings that help us understand the era of concentrated political and aesthetic change called Romanticism. These include surveys of inner psychology and surveys of subjects acting within a large nexus of revolutionary ideas that helped mold what has been called the modern outlook: the conception of the literary survey, walking surveys of the natural landscape, sightlines between sympathetic spectator and sufferer, the surveillance of political subjects, and eyewitness accounts of revolutionary and colonial activities. While Romanticism proper may span the French Revolution (1789) through the Reform Bill (1832), it is important to recognize the reactionary nature of Romanticism. Thus we will begin with the Enlightenment philosophers, David Hume and Adam Smith, in order to understand the growing interest in both rationalizing and transcending human understanding, individuality, and social responsibility. We also will focus our discussions of romantic texts in conjunction with the growth of the most popular genre of the day: the novel.

Requirements: midterm, final exam, several response papers, quizzes, presentation, and two essays.

Texts
Lunsford, Andrea. Easy Writer.

Requirements
Exams: a midterm (20%) and a final exam (20%)
Participation, short writing assignments, quizzes, and class presentation (20%)
Essays: Two 4-5 page essays (20% and 20%)

LATE POLICY: Essays—and all other assignments—are due at the beginning of class.

1) Late essays will be marked a full grade lower for every day late. Essays turned in a week past the deadline will be given a “zero.”
2) Short at-home writing assignments must be turned in at the beginning of class. Late ones will not be accepted.
3) In-class writing assignments and quizzes must be turned in by the end of class, and cannot be “made up” at a later date.

EMAILING POLICY: I want to get to know you and your work this semester. Thus I ask that you call me or stop by my office during office hours (or other scheduled times) so that we can talk. DO NOT EMAIL ME TO ASK FOR AN “UPDATE” ON MISSED ASSIGNMENTS, OR TO EXPLAIN AN ABSENCE. Working groups will be assigned so that you can contact group members for notes and missed work.

ESSAY FORMAT: Your paper should be paper-clipped. It must include page numbers. Format: 12-point Times New Roman font, double-spaced, with one-inch margins.

Plagiarism
Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will result in a failing grade on the assignment, if not for the course. I will follow the departmental policy 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 Judicial Affairs Office.”
Submit your papers using correct MLA (Modern Language Association) format, using your Easy Writer text.
Professor Park / English 3806-001: Schedule of Classes, first half of the semester—subject to revision
BR = Mellor and Matlak's British Romanticism

WEEK ONE
TTh 8/21-8/23 Immanuel Kant, “What is Enlightenment?” (1784); Percy Shelley, “A Defence of Poetry” (1819)

NOTE: I will assign the following readings (along with other texts) in conjunction with the novels:
Neoclassicism and Romanticism (BR 125-28)
Johann Winckelmann, from The History of Ancient Art (BR 129-30)
Sir Joshua Reynolds (BR 131-33)
David Hume, from Treatise of Human Nature
Adam Smith, from The Theory of Moral Sentiments (BR 141-43)
Edmund Burke, from A Philosophical Enquiry into the Origins of Our Ideas of the Sublime and Beautiful (BR 134-37)
Charlotte Smith, all given selections from Elegiac Sonnets (BR 225-30)
William Wordsworth, “The World Is Too Much with Us” (BR 596), “Resolution and Independence” (BR 593-95)
Burke, from Reflections on the Revolution in France (BR 13-19)
Thomas Paine, from The Rights of Man (BR 25-28)
Mary Wollstonecraft, from Vindication of the Rights of Woman (BR 371-412)
“Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Abolition in Britain” (BR 53-55)
from The Mansfield Judgment (BR 56-57)

WEEK TWO
T 8/28 Burney, Evelina
Th 8/30 Burney, Evelina
Friday 8/31—Deadline to drop course without a grade

WEEK THREE
T 9/4 Burney, Evelina
Th 9/6 Burney, Evelina

WEEK FOUR
T 9/11 Burney, Evelina
Th 9/13 Burney, Evelina; PAPER ONE DUE

WEEK FIVE
T 9/18 Wordsworth, from Preface to Lyrical Ballads (BR 573-81)
Th 9/20 Wordsworth, Preface cont; Olaudah Equiano, from The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano

WEEK SIX
T 9/25 Wordsworth, 1799 Two-Part Prelude, Part One (BR 624-29)
Th 9/27 Wordsworth, 1805 Prelude, Books 6 and 7 (BR 638-42)

WEEK SEVEN
T 10/2 Individual Conferences with Professor Park in her office, room 3030 in Coleman
Th 10/4 Individual Conferences continued

WEEK EIGHT
T 10/9 TBA
Th 10/11 MID-TERM EXAM