Fall 8-15-2004

ENG 3806-002: English Romantic Literature

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Course Description, Goals, and Policies: The subject is English Literature, 1780-1830. Assigned readings include poetry, fiction, drama, and non-fictional prose. English Romanticism is not a uniform literary movement, but rather a complex of responses to the turbulent conditions and ideas that have transformed Western society since around 1750. Our goal is to read and to discuss each work carefully, for its own sake, and to examine how it relates to period concerns and to other works that treat the same subject(s). I will deliver some background material as lecture, but most of our class time will be devoted to discussion and group work. Also, each class member will make a brief oral report of research discoveries beginning October 14.

This is a writing-intensive course. You may submit a paper from this class as part of your EWP. For more information, visit the assessment website: www.eiu.edu/~assess.

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."

Texts: Mellor and Matlak, British Literature: 1780-1830
       Lewis, Matthew. The Monk
       Austen, Jane. Persuasion
       ————. Northanger Abbey

Requirements and grading:

- careful preparation of the readings listed in the syllabus – 10%
- regular participation in class discussions – 10%
- research paper on an assigned topic – 20% (1000 to 1500 words)
- brief oral report based on research project – 10%
- two exams – 60% (30% each)

You must complete all of the above requirements to pass the course.
Tentative Schedule:

Social, Cultural and Political Contexts

Aug. 24: introduction to course

Aug. 26: Burke, Reflections on the Revolution in France; Wollstonecraft, A Vindication of the Rights of Man; Paine, The Rights of Man


Gothic Traditions

Sept. 7: Lewis, The Monk, vol. 1

Sept. 9: Lewis, The Monk, vol. 2


Sept. 16: Austen, Northanger Abbey, 1-15

Sept. 21: Austen, Northanger Abbey, 16-31

Sept. 23: Mary Shelley, Mathilda, I-VI

Sept. 28: Mary Shelley, Mathilda, VII-XII

Sept. 30: exam

Canonical Poets

Oct. 5: Blake, Songs of Innocence

Oct. 7: Blake, Songs of Experience

Oct. 12: research project proposal due; Blake, The Marriage of Heaven and Hell

Oct. 14: research reports begin; Wordsworth, Lyrical Ballads, With a Few Other Poems (1798, 1800); Preface (1800)


Oct. 26: Wordsworth, sonnets: "Composed upon Westminster Bridge"; "The World Is Too Much with Us, Late and Soon"; "It Is a Beauteous Evening"; "London, 1802"

Oct. 28: Coleridge, "Frost at Midnight"; "The Nightingale"; "This Lime-Tree Bower My Prison"

Nov. 2: Coleridge, "Kubla Khan: or A Vision in a Dream"; "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner"

Nov. 4: Byron, Letter to Lady Byron (8 February 1816); *Poems* (1816); "Darkness"; "Prometheus"; Letter to Augusta Leigh (8 September 1816); Letter to Augusta Leigh (26 July 1819)

Nov. 9: Shelley, "Hymn to Intellectual Beauty"; "Ode to the West Wind"

Nov. 11: Keats, "Ode to a Nightingale"; "Ode on a Grecian Urn"; "To Autumn"

The Novel

Nov. 16: Austen, *Persuasion*, 1-6

Nov. 18: Austen, *Persuasion*, 7-12

Nov. 23, 25: Thanksgiving recess

Nov. 30: Austen, *Persuasion*, 13-18


Dec. 7: review

Dec. 9: review; research project due

final exam -- date and time to be announced