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ENG 3806-021

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SYLLABUS

INSTRUCTOR: John Kilgore. Office: 3331 Coleman Hall. Hours: M-F 1:00-3:00 and by appointment. Phone: (217) 581-6313 (office); (217) 345-7395 (home). E-mail cfjdk@eiu.edu. Please feel free to call at reasonable hours. Give date and time of call when leaving a voice mail message at my office, and do not use voice mail for urgent business: call my home instead.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: regular attendance, two take-home exercises, paper, final exam, possibly some quizzes. The final grade will be computed approximately as follows: take-homes, 35%; paper, 30%; final, 20%; participation and intangibles, 15%. I reserve the option of altering these percentages somewhat.

TAKE-HOME EXERCISES. Will be essay tests emphasizing basic grasp of readings and class discussion. These exams will require you to write a great deal (about 1500 words) in a short time, so your style should probably be plainer and more direct than in more formal papers, your ideas a bit simpler. I ask that the take-homes be typed unless this is truly a hardship for you; in which case, please get advance approval for handwritten work.

PAPER. Should be a typed “sort of research” paper of 7-8 pages or so with bibliography and notes in MLA format. The basic requirement is that the essay press its thesis vigorously AND (what makes it sort of a research paper) that it present SOME information that could not be obtained from the course readings alone. For most projects, 50 pages or so of “extra” reading should be plenty, and conceivably much of this could be done in books already issued by TRS (see below). The key is to focus your topic ahead of time, so that whatever reading you do is clearly directed, useful, and relevant. Try not to waste time drilling dry holes. Avoid reading that is overly specialized, clearly too long, or not obviously relevant to the questions with which you began.

Paper topics must be approved in advance, and a one-page prospectus or brief preliminary statement is due by July 11. A list of suggested topics will be distributed (along with very detailed guidelines), but I encourage you to define and develop your own topic if you prefer. Only one or two people will be allowed to do each of the suggested topics, so they must be reserved, starting July 9.

FINAL EXAMINATION. More objective in focus than either the papers or the take-home exercises, it will include identifications, short answers, mini-essays, and quotations to be identified by work and author. The purpose is to ascertain that you have done ALL the required readings well and diligently and that you have a good grasp of what has gone on in class discussion. The format will be open-book, open-note.

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION. Will count approximately 15% of your grade in the course. At each meeting, I will pass around an attendance sheet which you must sign. At the end of the term, I will assign a basic participation grade according to the following scale: 1 absence—A; 2—B; 3—C; 4—D; 5—F. I will raise this grade a bit if I think your contributions to class discussion have been especially good. Absences beyond the maximum of 5 will result in further, proportional damage to your course average, rapidly making it impossible for you to pass the course.

Note that you have 1 “free” absence. Use this as insurance against illness and other unavoidable circumstances.
that may keep you from attending. I will not award attendance credit for any session which you have missed. Sometimes, though, I may be willing to assign make-up work; so do see me if you feel you have a legitimate reason for missing more than one session.

QUIZZES AND EXTRA CREDIT: Quizzes may be given without notice at any time, and I may occasionally suggest optional extra credit assignments. Points earned on either will be added to the grade on the final.

KEYS TO SUCCESS IN THIS CLASS:

- Do ALL the reading, do it carefully, and do it EARLY. Writing assignments come thick and fast at the end, and you need to make time now.
- Attend without fail.
- Start early on your paper.
- Find ways to pursue your own enthusiasms. Like distance running or mountain climbing, the class should be fun—strenuous fun, but fun.

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REQUIRED TEXTS

Wu, ed., *Romanticism: An Anthology with CD-ROM.* (W) [NOTE: THE CD IS FRAGILE. YOU MAY WANT TO REMOVE IT FROM THE BACK COVER AND KEEP IT IN A SAFE PLACE]
Curran, ed. *Cambridge Companion to British Romanticism* (C)
Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*
Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*

Overview of course:

Introduction and background – Two Days
William Blake – Three Days
William Wordsworth – Three Days
Samuel Taylor Coleridge – Two Days
George Gordon, Lord Byron – Two Days
Percy Shelley – One or Two Days
Mary Shelley – Two Days
Keats – Two Days

SCHEDULE

DEADLINES:

Thursday, July 11: Paper Proposal Due
Thursday, July 18: First Take-Home Exam Due
Thursday, July 25: Second Take-Home Exam Due
Monday, July 29: Paper Due
Wednesday, July 31: Final Exam
READINGS:

NOTE: PLEASE HAVE ALL READINGS DONE BY THE BEGINNING OF THE SESSION FOR WHICH THEY ARE ASSIGNED. PLEASE MAKE AN EARLY START ON THE LONGER WORKS, I.E., ALASTOR, FRANKENSTEIN AND DON JUAN.

Works given in ALL CAPS are especially important and should be studied with special care. Most poems should be read at least twice in any case. Readings listed as “optional” are not required. They may make good starting points for research projects.

I. Introduction: The Historical Context


II. Blake: Inner and Outer Revolutions

W 7/10 THE MARRIAGE OF HEAVEN AND HELL W84.


III. Wordsworth: Nature, Loss, and Self


T 7/16 THE RUINED COTTAGE, W277, continued. TINTERN ABBEY, W265. RESOLUTION AND INDEPENDENCE, W368. FIRST TAKE-HOME HANDED OUT


IV. Coleridge: Dejection and Imagination


V. Byron and The Shelles: Dark Romanticism and Beyond


T 7/23 *DON JUAN*, concluded. Percy Shelly, "To Wordsworth," W823; "OZYMANDIAS," W849; "England in 1819," W740. *ALASTOR*, W834-852 (We will be primarily concerned with the first third.) SECOND TAKE-HOME HANDED OUT.


TH 7/25 Mary Shelley, *FRANKENSTEIN*. SECOND TAKE-HOME DUE.

VI. Keats: Doubt and 'Negative Capability'

F 7/26 Letters: To Bailey, W1018; To George and Tom Keats, W1019; To Reynolds, W1020 and 1021; To Woodhouse, 1042; To George and Georgiana Keats, W1053. "Bright Star," W1092. THE EVE OF SAINT AGENES w1043.

M 7/29 The Great Odes: W1056-1063, especially *ODE ON A GRECIAN URN* and *ODE TO A NIGHTINGALE*. "TO AUTUMN," W1080.

T 7/30 Presentation of papers. Review.

W 7/31 Final Examination

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POLICY ON LATE WORK: Unfortunately, the accelerated summer session leaves us very little leeway here. For the take-home exams, I MAY be able to grant SHORT extensions in truly EXCEPTIONAL circumstances if (and only if) you have been in touch with me before the missed deadline. Otherwise the grade penalty will consist of one full letter grade for each calendar day of lateness, weekends included. The paper is due the day before the final examination, and again I can grant only the briefest of extensions, and only in exceptional circumstances. Otherwise the penalty for handing in the paper on the 31st will be one full grade. Papers can be accepted after this date only if you have arranged for a grade of "Incomplete" in the course.

But when in doubt, call me at 581-6313 or 345-7395. I want to be fair, and will try to be flexible if circumstances arise which I haven’t anticipated.

Please be aware that the penalty for deliberate plagiarism is automatic failure of the course. See me if you have any questions about this policy.