ENG 3806-001: British Romanticism

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In this course, we will survey a fascinating and fast-changing period of literature (1780-1830), one that witnessed revolutions, a world war, and some of the first forays into modern technology. This period not only proposed the idea that "all men are created equal" but also explored the darker side of this proposition as it surveyed the hauntings of the human mind—our fears, secret identities, and cultural anxieties. In other words, this period created the space of what we now call the Gothic.

We will read a variety of provocative texts from this period (in several genres) to survey the range of ideological and psychological constructions of the gothic. The primary goal will be not only to historicize the gothic but also to look for connections to British Romanticism.

Most importantly, you need to be prepared for—and contribute actively in—class discussions.

Bliss was it in that dawn to be alive,
But to be young was very Heaven! . . .
Not in Utopia,—subterranean fields,—
Or some secreted island, Heaven knows where!
But in the very world, which is the world
Of all of us,—the place where, in the end,

William Wordsworth, The

Since the writers and texts of this 50-year period are many and diverse, I have structured the course to be primarily a reading course, with frequent response papers and quizzes to assess your understanding and comprehension. You will also need to write two papers, which will allow you to explore in more depth the readings and topics of interest.

Most importantly, you need to be prepared for—and contribute actively in—class discussions.
Conferences ~
The reading can often be difficult for this course, so please feel free to meet with me to discuss any questions you have or concepts you’re not understanding. I enjoy discussing this material outside of class and don’t consider it an intrusion for you to stop by my office for some help.

Attendance Policy ~
- I abide by the University’s definition of an excused absences, and I generally allow two unexcused absences—no questions asked. On the third absence—and for every absence thereafter—I will deduct 5% from your final grade.
- Five or more absences equate to an automatic “F” for the course.
- For any day that you are not in class, it is your responsibility to find out what was covered, new assignments given, changes in the syllabus, or any homework due for the next meeting. Unless the absence is excused, any homework due on a day you were absent may not be turned in late or made up.
- It is also your responsibility to provide the appropriate documentation to verify an excused absence, preferably within a week of the absence.
- Please do not email me to tell me you were not in class or why. This is best done in person either after the next class or during my office hours.

Academic Honesty ~
Students are of course responsible for knowing Eastern Illinois University’s regulations and policies regarding academic honesty. Plagiarism, even if unknowing or accidental, can result in your failing the course and in further action by the university. If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism, feel free to ask me to clarify.

Computer & Classroom Etiquette~
You’re welcome to bring your notebook computer to class. However, I ask that you observe common rules of etiquette and decorum when you use it. In brief, you may use it to take notes or complete an in-class writing activity. You may not use it for anything not directly related to class work. Also, please turn off (or mute) cell phones. Out of respect for the class and the integrity of class activities, absolutely no text messaging during class is allowed.

Electronic Writing Portfolio ~
This course is a writing-intensive course and, as such, your papers satisfy the requirements for the Electronic Writing Portfolio.
Students with Disabilities ~
If you are a student with a documented disability in need of accommodations to fully participate in this class, please contact the Office of Student Disability Services (OSDS). All accommodations must be approved through OSDS. Please stop by Ninth Street Hall, Room 2006, or call 217-581-65

EIU Catalog Description ~
Study of British literature 1780-1830 with emphasis on such controversies as the French Revolution and its aftermath, the role of imagination, human rights and gender, and the aesthetics of form. Writers may include Blake, Wordsworth, Coleridge, Wollstonecraft, Smith, Hemans, Keats, the Shelleys. (Group 3B) WI Prerequisites & Notes: ENG 1002G. Credits: 3

University Learning Goals ~
In this course, students will engage with all areas of EIU’s University Learning Goals, including (but not limited to) the following:

2. Seeking and gathering data, information, and knowledge from experience, texts, graphics, and media.
3. Understanding, interpreting, and critiquing relevant data, information, and knowledge.
4. Synthesizing and integrating data, information, and knowledge to infer and create new insights.
5. Anticipating, reflecting upon, and evaluating implications of assumptions, arguments, hypotheses, and conclusions.

Writing & Critical Reading: 1. Creating documents appropriate for specific audiences, purposes, genres, disciplines, and professions.
2. Crafting cogent and defensible applications, analyses, evaluations, and arguments about problems, ideas, and issues.
3. Producing documents that are well-organized, focused, and cohesive.
4. Using appropriate vocabulary, mechanics, grammar, diction, and sentence structure.
5. Understanding, questioning, analyzing, and synthesizing complex textual, numeric, and graphical sources.

Speaking & Listening: 1. Collecting, comprehending, analyzing, synthesizing and ethically incorporating source material.
2. Adapting formal and impromptu presentations, debates, and discussions to their audience and purpose.
3. Developing and organizing ideas and supporting them with appropriate details and evidence.

Responsible Citizenship: 1. Engaging with diverse ideas, individuals, groups, and cultures.
2. Applying ethical reasoning and standards in personal, professional, disciplinary, and civic contexts.
reading schedule . . .

Since we’ll be focusing heavily on discussion of ideas and concepts--and not historical coverage--the following schedule will likely change. Please keep aware of any changes, especially if you’re absent from class.

- Texts not from TRS will either be available on D2L or supplied as a handout.
- BL = Mellor & Matlak Anthology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Reading Schedule</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>27 aug</td>
<td>Read the 6 “Section Introductions”</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• “The French Revolution &amp; the Rights of Man” (BL 9-12)</td>
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<td>• “Rights of Woman” (BL)</td>
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<td>• “Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Abolition in Britain” (BL)</td>
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<td>• “Society &amp; Political Economy” (ZBL)</td>
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<td>• “Science &amp; Nature” (BL 105-08)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• “Aesthetic Theory &amp; Literary Criticism” (BL 125-28)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Reading Question (be prepared to discuss): In what ways, does this age seem like</td>
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<td>or similar to your culture (the 21st century)? In what ways does it seem strange</td>
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<td></td>
<td>and foreign?</td>
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<tr>
<td>29 aug</td>
<td>• E. Burke, from Reflections on the Revolution in France (BL 13-19)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• T. Paine, from The Rights of Man (25-28)</td>
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Reading Schedule

- Although we will try to keep to this schedule, our discussion may require changes. I will alert (or remind) you of changes via d2l, so be sure to check d2l on a daily basis. (It’s a great idea to activate d2l’s notification features so you will be notified by text or email of any new postings!)
- As discussed in class, I will use d2l for response papers and even some on-line quizzes. These won’t be overly challenging; however, they do require (1) that you keep up with the reading and (2) that you observe dates and check d2l.

Sept 1 ** No Class **

Sept 3
- Review introduction to “Aesthetic Theory & Literary Criticism” (125-28)
- Read excerpts (129-45)
- Complete response paper (d2l)

Sept 5
- Walpole, The Castle of Otranto (complete)
- “Matters of the Estate” (d2l)

Sept 8
- M. Shelley, Frankenstein (28-85)
- 1831 Introduction (19-25)
- 1818 Preface (26-27)

Sept 10
- M. Shelley, Frankenstein (86-138)

Sept 12
- M. Shelley, Frankenstein (138-end)

Sept 15
- William Blake (272-76), All Religions Are One (277), There is no natural religion (a) and There is no natural religion (b) (276-77), The Book of Thel (284-86)

Sept 17
- William Blake, Marriage of Heaven and Hell (287-94)

Sept 19
- William Blake, Selections from Songs of Innocence (277-84); from Songs of Experience (299-304)

Sept 22
- Blake, Visions of the Daughters of Albion (294-99)

Sept 24
- Mary Hays, The Victim of Prejudice (1-56)

Sept 26
- Mary Hays, The Victim of Prejudice (57-120)

Sept 29
- Mary Hays, The Victim of Prejudice (121-end)
Oct 1 • John Keats, *The Eve of St. Agnes* (1279-84)
• Jane Austen, *Northanger Abbey* (chaps. 1-7)
• Begin Paper 1 (assignment sheet)

Oct 3 • Jane Austen, *Northanger Abbey* (chaps. 8-16)


Oct 8 • Jane Austen, *Northanger Abbey* (chaps. 26-end)

Oct 10 Review for Midterm Exam

Oct 13 Midterm Exam (you will take the exam online through d2l; please complete by 6:00 p.m. Oct 13th)

Oct 15 • Willam Wordsworth & Samuel Taylor Coleridge, “Advertisement” to *Lyrical Ballads* (handout on d2l)
• Discuss Paper 1 (due: Oct 24)

Oct 17 No Class

Oct 20 • *Lyrical Ballads* (continued)
  “Simon Lee” (564-66); “We Are Seven” (566), “Lines Written In Early Spring” (567); “Expostulation and Reply” (571); “The Tables Turned” (571); “The Thorn” (567-70)
- Mary Robinson, “All Alone” (320-22)
- Mary Lamb selections from *Mrs. Leicester’s School* (d2l)

Oct 22 Continue discussion from Monday

Oct 24 TBA
  Paper 1 due (by 9:00 p.m. d2l dropbox)

Oct 27 • S. T. Coleridge, *Christabel* (721-29)

Oct 29 • E.T.A. Hoffman, *The Sandman* (d2l)

Oct 31 • E.T.A. Hoffman, *The Sandman* (d2l)

Nov 3 • M. Lewis, excerpts from *The Monk*

Nov 5 • C. Dacre, *Zofloya* (3-69)

Nov 7 • C. Dacre, *Zofloya* (69-150)

Nov 10 • C. Dacre, *Zofloya* (150-221)

Nov 12 • C. Dacre, *Zofloya* (221-end)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 14</td>
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<td>Nov 19</td>
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<td>Nov 21</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Break</td>
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Final Paper Due Monday, Dec. 8\textsuperscript{th} (by 11:59 p.m. d2l dropbox)

Final Exam: Wed, Dec. 17\textsuperscript{th}