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**Texts:**
- Northanger Abbey
- Pride and Prejudice
- Mansfield Park

**Requirements:**
- Two Short Papers (each 10%) 20%
- Final Paper 20%
- Group Project 15%
- Final Exam 15%
- Response Papers 10%
- Participation 20%

**Description:**
Second only to Shakespeare, Jane Austen is one of literature's most beloved writers. While her novels had modest success during her short lifetime, they have never been out of print since they were first published. She is read across all demographics, by young and old, in about every language. The film industry has had a long, intense interest in Austen, acutely demonstrated over the past 15 years or so as her novels are continually remade into films. The cult of Austen lovers (affectionately called "Janeites") are alive and well and dominate the Internet.

So who was Jane Austen? Why did she write? Who were her contemporaries? What was her contribution to the history of the novel? Most importantly, why do we continue to read—if not idealize—her today? We'll discuss these questions and many more throughout the semester as we read (or reread) her novels and view (or re-view) several film versions of the novels. We will examine versions of Austen's world that emerge in the criticism, biographical accounts, and letters. Who was Jane?—a cynical romantic, a sly political commentator, a domestic philosopher, an aggrieved feminist? Stay tuned.

**Papers:**
You will write two short papers (approx. 3-5 pages each), one final paper (7-10 pages), and a series of response papers. I will handout an assignment sheet for each paper and provide more detailed guidelines.

**Group Project:**
We will divide the class into groups and each group will have the responsibility to make a presentation to the class about one of the novels during the time we're discussing it in class. I'll provide more guidelines later about this project, but you will be asked to make a handout for the class, and, of course, the presentation should be fun, witty, and highly entertaining.

**Attendance/Participation:**
You need to be in class prepared to discuss the reading assignments. This is not a lecture course and its success depends upon your involvement. You can assure yourself the full 20% (of the participation requirement) by being in class and prepared and by participating fully in class activities. I usually allow 2-3 absences with no questions asked. Four or more absences will affect your final grade (approximately 5% for each unexcused absence). More than 6 absences will likely result in a failing grade.

**Electronic Writing Portfolio:**
This course is a Writing-Intensive course and it may satisfy one of the requirements for your Electronic Writing Portfolio. I will be happy to help advise you on this process; however, I would like you to complete it by April 18th. Please see me if you have any questions.

**Students with Disabilities:**
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.

**Tentative Reading Schedule**
- Jan 11: Intro to Course
- Jan 13: Intro to Austen and Her World
- Jan 18: "Love and Friendship"
- Jan 20: Northanger Abbey
- Jan 25: Northanger Abbey
- Jan 27: Northanger Abbey
- Feb 1: TBA
- Feb 3: Pride and Prejudice
- Feb 8: Pride and Prejudice
- Feb 10: Pride and Prejudice
- Feb 15: Pride and Prejudice
- Feb 17: Pride and Prejudice; Short Paper Due

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Please Note: Some readings will be through Booth Library's e-reserve system and others from my website <http://www.ux1.eiu.edu/~cfrlb/>

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"And what are you reading, Miss -- --? 'Oh! it is only a novel!' replies the young lady; while she lays down her book with affected indifference, or momentary shame." --*Northanger Abbey*