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ENG 3806-002: English Romantic Literature

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Course Overview and Objectives: The tumultuous period spanning between the American and French Revolutions and the Napoleonic Wars produced a group of writers who later became identified as “Romantics.” In this course we will study a representative sampling of Romantic writers and literary genres, as well as several late-twentieth century cinematic visions and revisions of romantic texts. Our goal in this study is to gain a sense of some of the dominating concerns and modes of expression associated with British Romanticism. A second aim is to develop appreciation for and to extend skills in reading, writing and speaking about the literature and contexts of this period.

Course Requirements: To fulfill the above goals requires effort. Your part is to keep up with the class reading and to carefully prepare to join in class discussions.

- This class requires active and informed participation in class discussion and small groups. Furthermore, at least once during the quarter you will serve as an interlocutor. This means that you will be responsible to engage the class in a discussion of a given text for approximately 15-20 minutes. This task can be fulfilled in a number of ways such as focusing our attention on a literary problem the text poses, tracing a theme or idea that illuminates the reading or providing an historical context for the material to be discussed. (20%)
- You will write one in-class essay and one formal essay the topics to be announced. (40%)
- There will be a mid-term and a final exam (40%)
- You will also be expected to memorize and recite a poem (or excerpt) of 20 lines or more.

Required Texts:

- Course Packet(s) available in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Union Copy Center.
- Duncan Wu’s *Romanticism: an Anthology* (available at through the EIU’s textbook rental).
- Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein* (TBA)
- Jane Austen’s *Persuasion* (available through textbook rental).

Assignment for next week, August 28th: Please read all the material in the packet and come prepared to discuss Mary Wollstonecraft’s *Letters Written During a Short Residence in Sweden, Denmark, and Norway*