



ENGLISH 3321: THE ENGLISH ROMANTICS

Dr. Monica Smith

Office: 413C Classroom Center

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 2:00-3:00 or by appointment

Email: msmith@mail.wtamu.edu

Class Time/Location: MTWTH 12:00-2:00, CC 412

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Our explorations of Britain's Romantic period will be shaped by a set of provocative questions: What is Romanticism? How are we to define this literary period—in terms of a distinctive genre? Historical events? Particular writers or concerns? What makes these works “Romantic,” and how do we know? In attempting to answer these questions, we will engage with verse, novels, and non-fiction prose, studying Romanticism as a revolutionary period in social, political, and literary terms. We will consider a variety of works: *Frankenstein*; selections from the “Big Six” Romantic poets, as well as lesser known but nonetheless important poets like Charlotte Smith and Robert Bloomfield; and an assortment of non-fiction texts, particularly those charting the development of poetic theory across the period.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: Students should develop an understanding of Romantic poetic culture and its relationship to social and historical context; understand the fundamentals of prosody; discuss and write critically about genre, period, and authors; employ literary terminology correctly; independently develop a narrative that accounts for the variety, scope, and relative importance of different writers, texts, forms, and modes across the period.

CLASSROOM PERFORMANCE: This is an active, discussion-oriented class with substantial, demanding, daily readings. Each day, students should come to class prepared to articulate and defend their own readings, both on paper and in person, in large group and small group discussion.

REQUIRED TEXTS: **Purchase the editions specified below.** Other editions of the novels are unacceptable, for they will not contain necessary introductions and appendices. Take the syllabus to the bookstore and verify that you have the correct edition before purchasing. I'd certainly check online for price deals, but be careful to check shipping costs and delivery times (sometimes up to three weeks if shipped via media mail).

- *British Literature 1780-1830*. Eds. Anne Mellor and Richard Matlak. Harcourt Brace & Co.
- Shelley, Mary. *Frankenstein: The Original 1818 Text*. Eds. D. L. Macdonald and Kathleen Scherf. 2nd edition. Broadview, 2000.
- Readings available on WTONline.

To access course materials online:

- Go to <http://www.wtonline.wtamu.edu>
- Login with your WTAMU username and password.
- Find our course. Click on this link.
- On our course page, click on Lessons on the left-hand toolbar.

- Readings are arranged by Required and Recommended. Other course materials can be found here as well.

I also encourage you to consider one supplemental text, M.H. Abrams' *Glossary of Literary Terms*. Should your budget permit, I heartily recommend that you buy a copy, for you will find it an invaluable aid in this course and others. New copies tend to be expensive (around \$40), but you can find much more affordable (and usually used) copies online.

ASSIGNMENTS AND REQUIREMENTS:

Daily Readings are substantial and demanding. All readings should be completed before coming to class. **Do not come to class without your books and/or copies of any assigned supplementary readings.**

Quizzes and In-class Writings will vary from a quick, four or five line response to a question or prompt to a short reading comprehension quiz to a detailed analysis of a particular passage. These writings will be assessed according to the degree of engagement the student demonstrates with the question or assignment. Quizzes and in-class writings cannot be made-up and may be administered at any point during the class period.

Memorization Projects: Once during the semester students will select 14-20 consecutive lines of verse and recite them to me. All memorizations are due the week of June 18.

Response Papers will be due four times during the semester.

- Papers should be typed, one full page, single spaced (using Times New Roman 12 pt. font and 1" margins). Responses may cover one work in detail, or the response may address compelling connections between several texts. Some topics will be assigned, while others will be at the student's discretion.
- Responses will earn points for demonstrating the following: the student's significant and close engagement with the reading(s); detailed, notable textual analysis; original thought and critical reaction grounded in the text; observations that build on and go beyond class discussion.
- Responses will be penalized for the following: weak, sloppy, or insubstantial analysis; repetition of class discussion; lack of engagement with work; analysis based on vague assertions rather than close reading; remarks off-topic or not grounded in the text.
- The only materials that should be used in preparing the response papers are the assigned readings and a dictionary. No secondary sources of any kind, whether from journals, books, or the internet, should be used. I am interested in your interpretations, not someone else's.

Examinations: Exams will consist entirely of identifications. The final exam will be a comprehensive essay examination. Alternate testing dates are not available, and make-ups will only be allowed under the most extreme circumstances—circumstances documented and verified by the Office of Student Services.

ATTENDANCE: Regular attendance is essential; flawless attendance is expected. I will take roll every day. All absences will be treated the same, i.e. no differentiation between "excused" or "unexcused" absences. Two tardies will count as an absence. Excessive absences (more than two) will be reflected in the final course grade. I reserve the right to fail any student who misses more than three class periods.

SUBMITTING ASSIGNMENTS: Assignments are due in class and are to be delivered in person unless prior arrangements have been made with me. Any assignment that does not adhere to this requirement is considered late. Late assignments will lose one letter grade per business day, **not** class day. Assignments are not considered submitted until I receive them. To be safe, then, papers should never be left in my mailbox or sent via email attachment. Each student is held responsible for all assignments, regardless of her/his class attendance on the day the assignment is made. If a previously scheduled event coincides with an exam or due date, a written request for an extension or make-up date will be considered. All such requests must be submitted prior to the date in question. Any requests for extensions based on illness or

family emergency must be accompanied by written documentation verified by the Office of Student Services. All make-ups and extensions are at the instructor's discretion.

COMPUTER ACCESS: Students are expected to check email daily and the course webpage several times a week or as indicated on the daily schedule. Students are responsible for securing working computer equipment; labs are available on campus. Please note that since "The printer wouldn't work," "Something's wrong with my disk," and "I don't know what happened—I saved it but now it's not there" have become the 21st century versions of "The dog ate my homework," computer, software, or printer malfunction/failure of any kind will not constitute a valid excuse for missed, late, or incomplete work. Remember: save early, save often; print early, print often.

CONFERENCES: Office hours are Monday through Thursday from 2:00-3:00 or by appointment. You are always welcome to drop by during office hours.

ACADEMIC HONESTY: All students are expected to demonstrate the highest standards of honesty and integrity in every phase of their academic careers. Any instance of suspected academic dishonesty will be reported to the Head of the English Department and the Office of the Vice President of Academic Affairs. Students are responsible for informing themselves of all university regulations concerning academic honesty. For more information, please see the Code of Student Life, Appendix III (<http://www.wtamu.edu/administrative/ss/code/index.htm>)

ACCESS STATEMENT: If you need adaptations or accommodations because of a disability (i.e., physical, mental, psychological, learning), have emergency medical information to share with me, or need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible. West Texas A&M University seeks to provide reasonable accommodations for all qualified persons with disabilities. This University will adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to afford equal educational opportunity.

GRADING:

Response Papers	30%
Quizzes, In-Class Writings	15%
Memorization Project	5%
Exams (2 exams at 15% each)	30%
Final Exam	20%

Grading Scale:

Excellent work will earn an A (90-100).

Good work will earn a B (80-89.99).

Average work will earn a C (70-79.99).

Fair work will earn a D (60-69.99).

Poor work will earn an F (0-59.99).

A = 95

A- = 90

B+ = 88

B = 85

B- = 80

C+ = 78

C = 75

C- = 70

D+ = 68

D = 65

D- = 60

F = (as marked; work not submitted assessed as a 0)

DAILY SCHEDULE: Subject to change. The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary. The most up-to-date version will be available via WTONline. It is the student's responsibility to stay informed and up-to-date with any changes. Although not specified by page number on the syllabus, students are expected to read and should anticipate quizzes over the introductory sections on each author we study.

Wednesday, May 30: Introduction to class

Thursday, May 31: Defining "Romanticism"

Required: "The Romantic Period" (WTONline), "Periods of English Literature" (from Abrams; also available on WTONline), and "Neoclassic and Romantic" (from Abrams; also available on WTONline).

Monday, June 4: Lyric and Ballad

Required: William Wordsworth's Preface to *Lyrical Ballads* (573), "The Thorn" (567), "Tintern Abbey" (571); "Lyric," "Ballad," and "Poetic Diction" (all from Abrams; also available on WTONline).

Tuesday, June 5: "Spots of Time"

Required: Wordsworth: Part One of *The Two-Part Prelude* of 1799 (624); Robert Bloomfield, excerpts from *The Farmer's Boy* (WTONline); "Pastoral" (from Abrams; also available on WTONline)

Recommended: excerpts from *The Prelude*, Book Fifth through Book Thirteenth, 1805 (635)

Wednesday, June 6: Early Romantic Sonnets; Response Paper One Due

Required: Wordsworth, "England! the time is come when thou shouldst wean" (WTONline); "The world is too much with us" (596); "Composed Upon Westminster Bridge" (596); Charlotte Smith, Sonnets I, XLIII, and LXX (227-229); "Sonnet" (from Abrams; also available on WTONline)

Thursday, June 7: "Shewing the Two Contrary States of the Human Soul."

Required: Blake, from *Songs of Innocence*: "Introduction"; "The Chimney Sweeper"; "Infant Joy"; "The Blossom"; from *Songs of Experience*: "Introduction"; "The Chimney Sweeper"; "Infant Sorrow"; "The Sick Rose"; *Songs of Innocence and of Experience* colorplates (WTONline); visit and explore the [Blake Digital Text Project](#)

Monday, June 11: "Without contraries there is no progression"

Required: Blake, *Songs* continued; visit and explore the [Blake Archive](#)

Recommended: anthology text as well as online colorplates of *The Marriage of Heaven and Hell* (287); *Book of Thel* (paying particular attention to colorplate in Mellor and Matlak)

Tuesday, June 12: Coleridge's Conversation Poem; Response Paper Two Due

Required: Coleridge, "The Eolian Harp" (760)

Recommended: excerpts from *Biographia Literaria* Chapters 1, 4, 13 (745)

Wednesday, June 13: Coleridge's Mystery Poem;

Required: "Kubla Khan" (729); excerpt from *Biographia Literaria* Chapter 14 (750); "Fancy and Imagination" (from Abrams; also available on WTONline)

Recommended: John Keats, "Eve of St. Agnes" (1279); Stevie Smith, "The Person from Porlock" (WTONline)

Thursday, June 14: EXAM ONE

Monday, June 18: The French Revolution and Rights of Man; Memorizations Due this week

Required: read excerpts from Burke, Wollstonecraft, Paine, and Macaulay (9); [La Marseillais: History](#); [La Marseillais: audio files](#)

Recommended: Wollstonecraft, excerpt from *Vindication of the Rights of Woman* (371); Blake, *Visions of the Daughters of Albion*; Smith: *The Emigrants*

WARNING: Stupid and tasteless link; click at your own risk

Tuesday, June 19: “And from his native land resolved to go”; Response Paper Three Due

Required: Byron: *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage*, Canto I.1-10, Canto III.1-16, 97; Canto IV.1-26, 184-185

Recommended: Wollstonecraft, *Letters Written during a Short Residence* [. . .] (420); Mary Shelley, *History of a Six Weeks' Tour* (1324)

Wednesday, June 20: Byronic Hero/Creature/Monster

Required: Mary Shelley: *Frankenstein* (vol. 1); “Novel” and “Gothic” (from Abrams; also available on WTONline)

Thursday, June 21: Byron's “Dramatic Poem”

Required: Byron: *Manfred* (927)

Recommended: “Darkness” (919)

Monday, June 25: Byronic Hero/Creature/Monster

Required: Mary Shelley: *Frankenstein* (vol. 2-3)

Recommended: Jacques Lacan, excerpt from “The Mirror Stage” (WTONline); 1798 “Rime of the Ancient Mariner” in *Lyrical Ballads* (698); 1817 “Rime of the Ancient Mariner” in *Sibylline Leaves* (734)

in 1855 . . .

and in 1982 (rock on, man) . . .

Tuesday, June 26: Defending Poetry; Response Paper Four Due

Required: “Hymn to Intellectual Beauty” (1065); *Defense of Poetry* (1167)

Recommended: “Mont Blanc” (1063)

Wednesday, June 27: Negative Capability

Required: Keats: Letter to Richard Woodhouse 27 October 1818 (1266); Letter to George and Tom Keats 21, 27 (?) December 1817 (1262); “Ode to Nightingale” (1296); “Ode to Psyche” (1295); “Ode on a Grecian Urn” (1297)

Recommended: Thomas Hardy, “The Darkling Thrush” (WTONline)

Thursday, June 28: EXAM TWO

Monday, July 2: Review for final exam

Tuesday, July 3: FINAL EXAM

Copyright 2007 Monica R. Smith as to this syllabus and all instructional material; materials may not be reproduced without Monica R. Smith's written consent. Students are prohibited from selling (or being paid for taking) notes during this course to or by any person or commercial firm without the express written permission of Monica R. Smith.