

Course Outline: The English Romantics

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

Note for students: This short course outline is provided for planning purposes only. Course information is tentative and subject to change; the final course syllabus will be available by the first day of classes.

Course Code

EN 3560 6.0A

Course Description

Between 1780 and 1830 a diverse group of poets, novelists, activists, and philosophers transformed the writing of literature: they came to be called the Romantics. We will situate the poetry and thought of this complex and powerful literary movement within the history of ideas. We open with the Enlightenment: neoclassicism, empiricism, realism, and a flourishing civil society, and then explore the romantic reaction: the demand for political representation and social improvement, and a focus on subjectivity, individuality, and the inner life. Complex psychologies, intense feeling, idealism, freedom, fantasy, solipsism, suicide, and the sublime are all central to the romantic ethos. We will approach writing by Blake, Wordsworth, Coleridge, Austen, Equiano, Mary and Percy Shelley, Keats, and Emily Bronte through such topics as the romantic imagination, the idea of the genius, and the terrible impasse between desire, dream and reality.

Course Delivery

Delivery Mode: SEMR

This is a seminar course with in-class reading of literary texts, and a blend of lecture and discussion.

Course Materials

Fall: William Blake, *Songs of Innocence and Experience*. Frances Burney, *Evelina*. Jane Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*. William Wordsworth and Samuel Taylor Coleridge, *Lyrical Ballads*. Edmund Burke, *A Philosophical Enquiry into the Origin of Our Ideas of the Sublime and the Beautiful*.
Spring Semester: Olaudah Equiano, *The Interesting Narrative*. Percy Bysshe Shelley, *A Defense of Poetry*. Jane Austen, *Persuasion*. Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley, *Frankenstein*. Emily Bronte, *Wuthering Heights*. John Keats, *Poems*. Films: *Pandaemonium*, about Wordsworth and Coleridge

writing *Lyrical Ballads*, and *Amazing Grace*, about the movement to abolish the slave trade in the British Empire.

Tentative Grade Breakdown and Deadlines

Here is a summary of all assignments during the first term. The second term is the same. Attendance will be taken and a participation grade (10%) assigned at the end of the year.

Assessment	Weight	Mode	Tentative Deadline
First Short Paper	[10%]	Written assignment	Early October
December Term Test	[15%]	In Person	Last Class
Term Paper	[15%]	Written assignment	December
Second short paper	[15%]	Written assignment	February
Participation	10%	All Year	

Category:	C
Historical Requirement:	Time Period II
Open To:	Yr 3 / 4 (EN, ENPR, CWR students only)