"The word ‘romantic’ has come to mean so many things that, by itself, it means nothing . . . there is, in fact, a plurality of romanticisms."

A. O. Lovejoy

“In the future we can no longer speak monolithically of ‘British Romanticism,’ of a ‘Romantic spirit of the age,’ of ‘the Romantic ideology.’”

Anne Mellor

“I must create a System or be Enslav’d by another man’s.” Blake.

“Nature never did betray the heart that loved her.” Wordsworth

Course Description

"Revolutionary" Romanticism is often defined by political/cultural revolutions of the time and the break with inherited literary tradition. Yet these assumptions are countered by notions of what has been called the "autonomous imagination," a desire to escape into what Shelley called the "still cave of the witch Poesy." We will read a diverse selection of Romantic texts and explore the movement from flights of imaginative reverie to graphic renditions/distortions of history, including Wollstonecraft's cultural "vision," Blake's critiques of sexual, political, and aesthetic oppression, Coleridge’s and Keats' sites of imaginative retreats (the urn, a magical snake, a pleasure dome and opium). We will focus especially on Wordsworth, whose works are central to both archetypal criticism (the role of Nature and Imagination) and political critique with such topics as the relationship between “place” and identity, the effects of Britain as empire and colonizing force, and the representation of “home” and “exile.” We will explore the burgeoning topic of “postcolonial ecopoetics” by contextualizing Romantic works both in terms of green readings of Romanticism but also the effects of the colonial power of England on individual and national identity (Shelley’s and Austen’s novels).

Required Texts: Broadview Anthology of Romanticism Vol. 4

Jane Austen, Mansfield Park
Mary Shelley, Frankenstein
Selected online texts as assigned
Film, Mansfield Park (1999, dir. Patricia Rozema)

Departmental Learning Objectives:
Students will demonstrate a broad understanding of selected texts from the British Romantic period.

Students will show comprehension of theoretical and critical foundations for the interpretation of literature from the British Romantic period.

Students will reveal in both oral and written work a discipline-specific critical facility through convincing and well-supported analysis of course-related material.

Students will display their command of academic English and of the tenets of sound composition by means of thesis-driven analytical prose, including at least 12-15 pages of research-based writing.

Students will complete a 15-20 minute oral report on a topic selected with the professor and an annotated bibliography with at least 5 secondary sources.

For more information on how this course meets program goals and requirements for the department of English, see <http://www.westga.edu/~engdept/fr/CourseGuid/4135..htm>.

**English 4135 Specific Course Objectives:**

To read critically and analytically selections from British Romantic writers in diverse genres and to read representative scholarship so as to consider these texts from a variety of critical perspectives.

To consider Romantic texts in light of current critical theoretical lenses of postcolonialism and ecocriticism.

To consider current notions of "periodization" in general, especially with regard to Romanticism and gender, using Austen and Mary Shelley, whose texts imply a substantial divergence in terms of what we study in Romanticism.

To use a variety of written assignments (in-class writing exercises, analytical papers, researched papers) in the fulfillment of a Writing Across the Curriculum course.

**Course Requirements and Class Policies:**

1. Students are expected to have read all assigned texts before each class meeting and be prepared to discuss; students should bring specific questions to class each meeting. We will have focused free writing exercises (quizzes) on the readings at the beginning of most class periods to enhance our discussions. Being prepared to discuss at each class meeting will shape the participation grade; thus absences in excess of 3 will lower the participation grade substantially.
2. Students will complete 2 brief (3-4 pages each) response essays which will demonstrate the ability to synthesize material and discuss specific passages in a concise, report form. The 2nd essay may lead into the research paper.

3. Students will write a research paper (8-10 pp undergraduates, 15 graduates) using correct and current MLA style on a topic chosen in consultation with the professor. Papers should go through a cycle of drafting/revision before final submission at the end of the quarter.

4. Students will complete a midterm and a final to demonstrate broad knowledge of specific texts, ideas, from the course.

5. Students will present brief presentations on a contemporary analogy at the end of the term.

Plagiarism Policy: The Department of English and Philosophy defines plagiarism as taking personal credit for the words and ideas of others as they are presented in electronic, print, and verbal sources. The Department expects that students will accurately credit sources in all assignments. An equally dishonest practice is fabricating sources or facts; it is another form of misrepresenting the truth. Plagiarism is grounds for failing the course. Any assignment plagiarized will receive a ZERO. Students will be reported to the appropriate university officials.

Evaluation Procedures
Evaluation of assignments is based on the unique expectations of each kind of assignment. Grades are evaluated in terms of the following:

Response essays 30%
Research paper 20%
Participation (quizzes, group work, writing workshops, oral presentation) 10%
Mid-term 20%
Final 20%

University Policies: Review materials at http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/Common_Language_forCourse_Syllabi.pdf

Drop/Add Deadline: Monday Sept. 2 (absolutely firm—no refunds for classes dropped after this date)

Withdrawal Deadline: OCT. 17

AUGUST

T 26 Introduction to course: Troubling binaries of Romanticism / Wordsworth “The World is too much with us” 244 / Excerpt Fight Club
Th 28 Wollstonecraft 102-5 / Other readings are in the online version of your text: broadviewpress.com/babl, then choose Age of Romanticism, then in lower left type in access code from your book (or 52H2Q32A68). Read the intro to the section re: Revolution, then these primary readings 1. Richard Price 2. Edmund Burke 3. Thomas Paine / Wollstonecraft 102-5

SEPTEMBER


Th 4 Blake, Divine Image, Human Abstract, Garden of love/ Poison Tree, The Little Black Boy, / view illustrations of Stedman

T 9 London / Visions of the Daughters of Albion (read text on Courseden but also view images from the Blake Archive

Th 11 Finish Visions /assign essay 1

T 16 Essay workshop/ bring draft to class

Th 18 Wordsworth: Lyrical Ballads selections 214-216, 220, “Preface” to LB 223-31/ “There Was a Boy” 231/ short excerpt from The Prelude p.264 lines 67-129


Th 25 Out of Town for Conference: assignment due online (one long paragraph responding to some intersection between Wordsworth’s poetry and the short story)

T 30 Coleridge, “Aeolian Harp” / Biographia Literaria ch. 13 / “Kubla Khan”

OCTOBER

Th 2 Coleridge, RIME of the Ancient Mariner

T 7 Coleridge, Christabel

Th 9 Midterm Exam

T 14 Keats, Select letters, “La Belle Dame” Intro to Lamia

Th 16 Lamia
T  21 Byron, Intro and First Act of Manfred/ the Byronic hero/ excerpt Camus Myth of Sisyphus

Th 23  Manfred

T  28  Shelley, Frankenstein

Th 30  cont’d (postcolonial and gender studies)

NOVEMBER

T  4 Film versions of FRANKENSTEIN (choose creation scene, DeLacy episode, or female creature versions to analyze from ONE of these: 1931 Frankenstein, Bride of Frankenstein, Mary Shelley’s Frankenstein, Young Frankenstein) / assign essay 2

Th 6  Essay 2 Workshop

T  11 CONTEXTS: The Abolition of Slavery

Th 13 Austen, “My Jane Austen” cultural artifacts / Begin Mansfield Park

T  18  Mansfield Park

TH 20  Austen: Debate Butler vs. Johnson (online readings) / assign research paper

T, 25 TH  27 THANKSGIVING BREAK

DECEMBER

T  2  Research Paper Q and A / Student Contemporary Examples

Th  4  Student Contemporary Examples / Wrap up / Last Day of Class

Final Exam  Wed. Dec. 10  8:00-10