ENGL 430B: Literature of the Romantic Period 2

Course Description

In this course, we will discuss some of the literature of the later Romantic period, or what is sometimes called "Second Generation Romanticism," especially the works of Keats, the Shelleys, Byron, and their circles. These authors were often deeply concerned with their relationship to literary history, to the contemporary literary "scene," and to a "future history" as defined and discussed in a number of their most famous works. Therefore, in the first half of the course, we will be especially interested in exploring how these figures talked about each other and each others' works, paying particular attention to how they discussed the related acts of reading and writing, the figure of the poet, and the relation between literature and history. In the second half of the course, we will explore some aspects of that history in more detail, paying particular attention to what authors had to say about their nation(s), its past(s), and its place in the world while examining the notion of a specifically "Romantic" history. All students are responsible for knowing the contents of this syllabus, including all due dates and class policies. The course will be conducted as a seminar with occasional short, informal lectures to introduce key topics.

Texts

Required Texts


Recommended Texts

McArthur, Murray and Jane E. Aaron, eds. The Little Brown Compact Handbook. First Canadian ed. Don Mills: Addison-Wesley, 1997. (All proceeds from the sale of this text will donated to the Department of English Scholarship Fund.)

Assignments and Grading Scheme

Working Introduction and Bibliography 20% (Due Week 7)
Research Essay 45% (Due Week 11)
Final Examination 35% (To Be Scheduled by the University)

Working Introduction and Bibliography (20%; Due Week 7)

This first assignment consists of two related parts, and each part will be graded out of 10. For Part A, prepare a working introduction to a 10-page (approximately 2500 word) research paper based on one of the suggested topics you will receive in Week 3. Be sure to include all of the elements of a good introduction: provide enough context so that your readers can understand and see the relevance of your thesis; state your
thesis as clearly and as explicitly as you can; and suggest the shape of your argument (the points you will cover, the order in which you will cover them, and how they connect to your thesis). Part A should be no less than one page (250 words) but no more than about a page-and-a-half (approximately 400 words). Keep in mind that this is a working introduction: you will probably revise your introduction and thesis several times before you submit the final paper, but establishing your topic and line of argument as early as possible will help to ensure that you produce the best final product you are capable of producing. Part B will be a working bibliography of not less than 8 but no more than 10 items (not counting the primary texts you’ll be working with which should also be included here). You should make every effort to include at least 5 items that have been published within the last 5 years. Furthermore, 2 of the items on your list must be annotated: in other words, following the citation, you should 1 or 2 paragraphs (approximately 250 words or a full page) in which you summarize the article or chapter and suggest how it will be useful for the argument you plan to make. Once again, remember that this is a working bibliography; depending on the shape of your final argument, you may or may not use all of the items. All assignments should be documented and formatted according to MLA guidelines; if you are unsure how to use the MLA, please come and see me. All assignments that do not follow MLA guidelines will automatically be docked 10%. We will discuss this assignment in more detail during Week 3 when you receive a list of suggested topics. This assignment is due at the beginning of class Week 7 (Thursday February 14) and is worth 20% of your final grade.

Research Paper (45%; Due Week 11)

Based on your work for the first assignment, write a 10-12 page (2500-3000 word) research paper. You must cite a minimum of 6 secondary sources; for every item less than six, the paper will be docked 5% (that is, if you only cite 4 secondary sources, your paper will be docked 10% [(6 - 4 = 2) X 5% = 10%]). All assignments should be documented and formatted according to MLA guidelines; if you are unsure how to use the MLA, please come and see me. All assignments that do not follow MLA guidelines will automatically be docked 10%. This assignment is due at the beginning of class Week 11 (Thursday March 21) and is worth 45% of your final grade.

Final Examination (35%; To Be Scheduled by the University)

The final examination will consist of two parts and will last for 3 hours. Part A will be a series of 8 short answer questions, and you must answer 5 of them. This part of the examination will be graded out of 10 (thus, each answer will be graded out of 2). Part B will consist of 4 possible essay questions, and you must write on 1. This part of the examination will be graded out of 25. We will discuss the examination in more detail in the final weeks of the course.

Class Policies

Submitting Assignments

All assignments are due at the beginning of class in the specified due date. Once class has begun, all papers not submitted are considered late. Do not, under any circumstances, leave a paper under my office door or taped to my office door. Give the paper directly to me or, at the very least, have it date stamped and put in my mailbox in the English Department Mail Room (Hagey Hall 229). Furthermore, assignments submitted via email will not be accepted for grading. Emailing a paper to me will stop the late penalties, but a hardcopy of the paper must be submitted within 24 hours of the email submission.
Late Assignments and Extensions

The late penalty for all assignments is 5% per day, every day, including weekends; therefore, if a paper is due Thursday, and I get it on Monday, it will automatically be docked 20%. Except in the most extraordinary of circumstances, no extensions will be granted the day of or before assignments are due. In all cases, the instructor reserves the right to ask for any appropriate documentation.

Plagiarism

All students should read the section on plagiarism in the *MLA Handbook* as well as the University of Waterloo’s Policy #71 on academic offenses (see the Undergraduate Calendar or visit http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infoucal/UW/policy_71.html for more on this policy). I do recognize the distinction between errors in documentation and clear attempts to commit fraud, but all such cases are serious academic offenses and will be penalized to the fullest extent allowed by the University.

Class and Reading Schedule

Students are expected to have read all assigned readings before the class in which we will discuss them, and lectures will assume that all students are familiar with the assigned readings. While lectures will often focus on 1 or 2 of the texts assigned for a given day, class interested will usually dictate the day’s discussion. With the exception of Shelley’s novel, all readings can be found in the Wu anthology.

Week 1 (Jan. 3): Welcome and Introduction

**Romantic Readers, Romantic Writers**


**Romantic(izing) Celebrity: On the Poets**


**Fighting Words**

Anarchy’

***Working Introduction and Bibliography Due, Thursday, February 14, at Beginning of Class***

Romantic Histories


Week 9 (Mar. 5 & 7): Percy Shelley, *Prometheus Unbound*; Byron, “Prometheus”

“Other” Romantics

Week 10 (Mar. 12 & 14): De Quincey, all selections from *Confessions of an English Opium-Eater*; Keats, “Ode on a Grecian Urn”; Keats, “Lamia”

Romancing the Fall


***Research Essay Due, Thursday, March 21, at Beginning of Class***

Apocalypse Then and Now

Week 12 (Mar. 26 & 28): Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley, *The Last Man*

Conclusions and Review

Week 13 (April 2 & 4): If, for whatever reason, we had to cancel a class during the term, we will use Tuesday, April 2 as an “extra day.” Otherwise, we will finish discussing Shelley’s novel and begin an examination review. Class on Thursday, April 4 will most likely be cancelled so you can begin preparing for your exams, and I will begin extending my office hours in order to meet with students who want to talk about the exam.