

## **LIT 3318.501: British Romanticism**

Fall 2013

ATC 1.305 M 7:00-9:45

Professor: Kenneth Brewer

### **Professor Contact Information**

Dr. Kenneth Brewer

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### **Course Prerequisite**

HUMA 1301

### **Course Description**

The course focuses on the most revolutionary literary movement (so far) in the history of British literature, Romanticism. From conceptions of the ideal personality of the artist (tortured, misunderstood, a dreamer, and in some cases an abuser of illicit substances) to notions about what makes a poem or novel aesthetically valuable to beliefs about the role of art in transforming society, the ideas behind Romanticism remain a vital part of our aesthetic debates. While readings will include the "Big Six" poets of British Romanticism (Wordsworth, Coleridge, Blake, P. Shelley, Keats, and Byron), the course also reflects recent shifts in our definition of Romanticism, particularly the Gothic novel (Lewis, Mary Shelley) other prose fiction (Hogg, Austen), and female poets (Barbauld, Robinson, Smith). We will pay particular attention to how films about the British Romantics reflect and shape our attitudes towards them.

### **Required Textbooks/Materials**

*Norton Anthology of English Literature: The Romantic Period* (9th edition)

Lewis, *The Monk: A Romance*

Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*

Shelley, M. *Frankenstein; or, the Modern Prometheus* (1818 version)

Hogg, *The Private Memoirs and Confessions of a Justified Sinner*

### **eLearning/Blackboard**

We will be using the online learning system in this class for the submission of assignments, exams, and delivery of course information. Please visit as soon as possible so that you are familiar with the interface.

## Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

In this course, students will:

- examine and analyze a variety of literary works (poetry, essays, and novels);
- apply considered analysis and respond to literary works as examples of human expression and aesthetic and philosophical principles;
- communicate their understanding and knowledge of texts through oral presentations and written documents.

By the end of this course, students should demonstrate:

- an ability to analyze and critically evaluate a variety of works from literature in the context of culture, society, and values;
- an ability to compare and contrast the works with each other;
- an understanding of the relationship between the structure of the works under analysis and their meaning;
- an understanding of the development and evolution of British Romanticism.

## Academic Calendar

Assignments are subject to change. Please check e-Learning site for the course for announcements.

All readings are from the *Norton Anthology* unless otherwise indicated.

<p>August 26 <b>Introduction to Romanticism</b></p> <p>Note: Assigned reading for this class meeting will be done in class. For the rest of the semester, readings are due on date indicated.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pope, "Epistle to Miss Blount" (Handout)</li> <li>• Wordsworth, "I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud" (334)</li> <li>• "The Demon-lover" (37-39)</li> <li>• Smith, "Written in the Church-Yard at Middleton in Sussex" (55-56)</li> </ul>
<p>September 9 <b>The Good: Ethics and Politics</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3-27</li> <li>• Lewis, <i>The Monk</i></li> </ul>

September 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Robinson, "January, 1795" (79-80)</li> <li>• Burke, from <i>Reflections on the Revolution in France</i> (187-94)</li> <li>• Blake, "London" (132-33); "The Chimney Sweeper" (121-22; 128)</li> <li>• Wollstonecraft, from <i>A Vindication of the Rights of Woman</i> (232-39)</li> </ul>
September 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wordsworth, "London 1802" (346-47); "Tintern Abbey" (288-92); "The World is Too Much With Us" (347)</li> <li>• Keats, "The Eve of St. Agnes" (912-22)</li> </ul>
September 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bryon, from <i>Childe Harold's Pilgrimage</i> (626-30)</li> <li>• Coleridge, "Kubla Khan" (459-62)</li> <li>• Wordsworth, "Surprised By Joy" (347)</li> <li>• P. Shelley, "Ozymandias" (776); "To Wordsworth" (752); "England in 1819" (790)</li> <li>• Keats, "Ode on Melancholy" (931-33)</li> </ul>
October 7 <b>The True: Religion, Science, and Philosophy</b>	Hogg, <i>The Private Memoirs and Confessions of a Justified Sinner</i>
October 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Barbauld, "An Inventory of the Furniture in Dr. Priestley's Study" (42-43)</li> <li>• Blake, "The Lamb" (120); "The Tyger" (129-30); "All Religions Are One" (116)</li> <li>• Wordsworth, "We are Seven" (278-79); "Mutability" (347); "Lines written in early spring" (280)</li> </ul>
October 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coleridge, "Frost at Midnight" (477-79); <i>Rime of the Ancient Mariner</i> (443-59)</li> <li>• Barbauld, "To a Little Invisible Being Who is Expected Soon to Become Visible" (49-50)</li> </ul>
October 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• P. Shelley, "Mont Blanc" (770-73); "Mutability" (751-52)</li> <li>• Coleridge, "Mr. Coleridge's System of Philosophy" (508-09)</li> <li>• Byron, "Darkness" (618-19)</li> </ul>
November 4 <b>The Beautiful: Aesthetics</b>	M. Shelley, <i>Frankenstein</i>

November 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wordsworth, from the “Preface to <i>Lyrical Ballads</i>” (292-304)</li> <li>• Keats, “Ode to Psyche” (925-27); “When I have fears that I may cease to be” (911)</li> <li>• Smith, “Written at the Close of Spring” (54)</li> <li>• Robinson, “London’s Summer Morning” (80-81)</li> </ul>
November 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coleridge, “Christabel” (462-77)</li> <li>• Keats, “Ode on a Grecian Urn” (930-31); “Bright Star” (922-23)</li> <li>• P. Shelley, from “A Defence of Poetry” (856-69)</li> </ul>
December 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• De Quincey, from <i>Confessions of an English Opium-Eater</i> (571-80)</li> <li>• Coleridge, from <i>Lectures on Shakespeare</i> (NA 499-502)</li> <li>• Lamb, from <i>On the Tragedies of Shakespeare</i> (NA 509-14)</li> <li>• Keats, “Ode to a Nightingale” (927-29)</li> <li>• P. Shelley, “To a Sky-Lark” (834-35)</li> </ul>
December 9 <b>The Good, the True, and the Beautiful</b>	Austen, <i>Pride and Prejudice</i>

Final Exam date to be announced

### **Assignments & Grading Policy**

Below are the required assignments for this course. I will provide more detailed information as the due dates approach. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have about assignments.

#### Short Writing Assignments and Quizzes: 40%

Short (250-word) response writings will be frequently assigned. These assignments will (usually) be submitted through the E-Learning site for the course. Assignments not submitted by the due date will be considered late and will be accepted for half credit.

There will be frequent quizzes throughout the semester to stimulate class discussion, gauge reading comprehension, and prepare for exams. Quizzes will be based on readings, lecture material, and class discussion. Quizzes will often be given at the conclusion of a class meeting.

In-class group assignments will be rigorously graded.

Exams: 30% (Midterm: 15%; Final: 15%)

The midterm will cover material up to that point in the class; the final will cover the material after the midterm.

Project 20%

Requirements for the Project will be discussed later in the course.

Class Participation: 10%

Participation includes attending class, participating in discussions and in-class activities, and visiting me in my office as often as possible. The majority of classroom time will consist of discussion: for the class to be rewarding, it is imperative that you do the reading and come to class prepared to talk and listen actively. In writings and exams, you are expected to draw on class discussion. Participation in class activities is necessary to pass this class. Promptness and regular attendance are essential and will affect your grade. You must arrive, prepared, to class on time and stay for the class period.

*Note on laptops etc:* If you are using your laptop or phone for non-class related activities, it is really obvious to me and to your classmates (for example, you laugh at the wrong times). Your participation and overall class grade will suffer accordingly.

### **Office Hours**

You are strongly encouraged to take advantage of my office hours to talk about class materials, your papers, and anything else that might help you.

The policies that comprise the rest of the syllabus may be accessed online: <http://provost.utdallas.edu/home/syllabus-policies-and-procedures-text>