

LIT 3318.501: British Romanticism

Fall 2015

W 7:00-9:45

AH2 1.204

Professor Kenneth Brewer

Professor Contact Information

Dr. Kenneth Brewer

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Office Hours: M-W-F 12:00-1:00; W 5:15-6:45; and by appointment

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.

Agenda

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

<p>August 26</p> <p>Note: Assigned reading for this 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"> • Pope, "Epistle to Miss Blount" (Handout) • Wordsworth, "I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud" (334) • "The Demon-lover" (37-39) • Smith, "Written in the Church-Yard at Middleton in Sussex" (55-56)
<p>September 2</p> <p>The GOOD: ETHICS AND POLITICS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lewis, <i>The Monk</i> Volumes 1 and 2 • Keats, "The Eve of St. Agnes" (912-22)
<p>September 9</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lewis, <i>The Monk</i> Volume 3 • Burke, from <i>Reflections on the Revolution in France</i> (187-94) • Wollstonecraft, from <i>A Vindication of the Rights of Woman</i> (232-39)
<p>September 16</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robinson, "January, 1795" (79-80) • Blake, "London" (132-33) • Blake, "The Chimney Sweeper" (121-22; 128) • Wordsworth, "London, 1802" (346)
<p>September 23</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wordsworth, "Tintern Abbey" (288-92) • Wordsworth, "Surprised By Joy" (347) • Keats, "Ode on Melancholy" (931-33)
<p>September 30</p> <p>MIDTERM EXAM</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shelley, "Ozymandias" (776) • Byron, from <i>Childe Harold's Pilgrimage</i> (626-30)
<p>October 7</p>	<p>Hogg, <i>The Private Memoirs and Confessions</i></p>

THE TRUE: SCIENCE, RELIGION, AND PHILOSOPHY	<i>of a Justified Sinner</i>
October 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Byron, "Darkness" (618-19) • Blake, "The Lamb" (120) • Blake, "The Tyger" (129-30) • Wordsworth, "We are Seven" (278-79)
October 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barbauld, "To a Little Invisible Being" (49) • P. Shelley, "Mont Blanc" (770-73) • P. Shelley, "Mutability" (751-52)
October 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coleridge, "Frost at Midnight" (477-79) • Coleridge, <i>Rime of the Ancient Mariner</i> (443-59)
November 4 THE BEAUTIFUL: AESTHETICS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wordsworth, from the "Preface to <i>Lyrical Ballads</i>" (292-304) • Robinson, "London's Summer Morning" (80-81) • Lamb, from <i>On the Tragedies of Shakespeare</i> (NA 509-14)
November 11 PROJECT DUE	Mary Shelley, <i>Frankenstein</i>
November 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coleridge, "Christabel" (462-77); • Coleridge, "Kubla Khan" (459-62) • Keats, "When I have fears that I may cease to be" (911) • Keats, "Ode to Psyche" (925-27)
December 2	Austen, <i>Pride and Prejudice</i>

December 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keats, “Bright Star” (922-23); • Keats, “Ode on a Grecian Urn” (930-31)
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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. They are due when class begins and will not be accepted late.

There will be an in-class quiz *each week* at some point during the class meeting. These quizzes aim to stimulate class discussion, gauge reading comprehension, and prepare students for exams. Quizzes are based on readings, lecture material, and class discussion. In addition, there are in-class group assignments that will be rigorously graded.

There are also objective quizzes on eLearning that will gauge reading comprehension.

You are allowed ONE makeup of an in-class assignment (for example, a quiz) and ONE makeup of an online assignment. The makeup may be used for a missed assignment, an assignment you did not do your best on, or a combination of those. Makeups must be completed by Wednesday, December 2, but it's in your interest to do the makeups (if they are necessary) as soon as possible.

The makeups cannot be used for exams.

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. If you have a laptop out it is highly likely that I will put you to work answering questions that come up in class discussion.

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://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies>