

ENGL 693G (Special Topics)—2 Summer 2020
Romanticism, Theoretically

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This course will attempt a miniature history of post-1945 literary theory through the lens of British Romanticism, as opposed to a survey of British Romanticism informed by literary theory. From Formalism to Ecocriticism and beyond, many of the key figures in the Anglo-American critical pantheon tested their mettle on Romantic texts, especially lyric poetry: we will explore possible reasons for this affinity, while engaging in close readings of what have become canonical texts. Some previous (undergraduate-level) exposure to the Romantic period will be helpful but is not required. **Students may take this course in lieu of ENGL 682 (Recent Literary Criticism).**

REQUIREMENTS

- Our class will meet by Zoom on **Mondays and Thursdays from 3:00-4:30 PM**. I expect you will be present for all meetings, but if you cannot, audio recordings will be posted to eCampus afterward.
- By **12 noon on the day of each session** (Monday and Thursday), I would like you to post one substantial comment about the readings for that session (approx. 100-150 words) to our class discussion board on eCampus.
- Each of you will be responsible for a brief (10- to 15-minute) report on one assigned theoretical text of the day. My major concern is as follows: **Based on the theorist's reading of Romantic literature, what principles of the corresponding theoretical school can we discern?** Signups will take place on a first-come, first-served basis and will open on the first day of class. You should post a 1-page handout to our eCampus discussion board no later than **9 AM** on the day of your report; this will serve as a guide to your major findings and a provocation to further thought. When we meet live, you need not reprise the contents of your handout, but we will likely refer to it throughout our discussion.
- Your final project for this course will be a research paper, approx. 10 pp., preferably revisable as a conference presentation. As an alternative, you may submit a creative project or a public-humanities initiative of a comparable scope. A proposal (approx. 1-2 pp.) will be due on the Friday of Week 3; a rough draft is due on the Thursday of Week 6; we will workshop the drafts later that day; the final revision will be due that Sunday.

SCHEDULE OF READINGS

Week	Day	Date	Assignment Due
			* = text posted to eCampus) Wu = <i>Romanticism: An Anthology</i> , 3 rd ed., ed. Duncan Wu: https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/wvu/detail.action?docID=843407 Ashfield and de Bolla = <i>The Sublime: A Reader in Eighteenth-Century Aesthetic Theory</i> , ed. Andrew Ashfield and Peter de Bolla: https://doi-org.www.libproxy.wvu.edu/10.1017/CBO9780511620409
I	M	6/29	Introduction
I	R	7/2	Deconstruction Percy Shelley, “The Triumph of Life”, <i>Shelley’s Poetry and Prose</i> (pp. 453-72): https://archive.org/details/shelleypoetrypr00shel_0 Paul de Man, “Shelley Disfigured”, ch. 6 of <i>The Rhetoric of Romanticism</i> (pp. 93-124): https://archive.org/details/unset0000unse_b6c3
II	M	7/6	The New Historicism William Wordsworth, “Tintern Abbey” (Wu pp. 415-20) Marjorie Levinson, <i>Wordsworth’s Great Period Poems</i> , Introduction and ch. 1 (pp. 1-57): https://archive.org/details/wordsworthsgreat00levi/
II	R	7/9	Marxism Selections from Shaftesbury (Ashfield and de Bolla pp. 72-79), Hume (pp. 199-206), Burke (pp. 131-43, 286-91) *Terry Eagleton, <i>The Ideology of the Aesthetic</i> , ch. 2 (pp. 31-69) (also at https://archive.org/details/ideologyofaesthe0000eagl)
III	M	7/13	Psychoanalysis John Keats, “The Eve of St. Agnes” (Wu pp. 1446-58) Daniela Garofalo, “Give me that voice again”: https://www.jstor-org.www.libproxy.wvu.edu/stable/41059435
III	R	7/16	Gender Studies *Selections from Hemans (Broadview pp. 1042-1060), Landon (pp. 1215-1223) *Anne Mellor, <i>Romanticism and Gender</i> ch. 6 (pp. 107-43) Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick, “Jane Austen and the Masturbating Girl”: https://www.jstor.org/stable/1343745
III	F	7/17	PROPOSAL FOR FINAL PROJECT DUE 4 PM
IV	M	7/20	Postcolonialism Edward Said, <i>Culture and Imperialism</i> (pp. 80-97): https://tinyurl.com/ydz9pdc6 Homi Bhabha, “Signs Taken for Wonders”, ch. 6 of <i>The Location of Culture</i> (pp. 102-22): https://www-journals-uchicago-edu.www.libproxy.wvu.edu/doi/abs/10.1086/448325

IV R 7/23 **Critical Race Theory**
*Olaudah Equiano, selections from *Interesting Narrative* (pp. 952-68, 1-16)
Marlon Ross, “The Race of/in Romanticism”: <https://tinyurl.com/y9nwg3m>

V M 7/27 **Biopower**
Michel Foucault, *Discipline and Punish* ch. 3.3 (“Panopticism”) (pp. 195-227):
<https://tinyurl.com/y8xlwgor>
Sara Guyer, “Biopoetics, or Romanticism”: <http://romantic-circles.org/praxis/biopolitics/HTML/praxis.2012.guyer.html>

V R 7/30 **Ecocriticism**
Samuel Taylor Coleridge, “The Rime of the Ancient Mariner” (Wu pp. 714-31)
Timothy Morton, *Ecology without Nature*, ch. 3 (pp. 140-206):
<https://hdl.handle.net/2027/mdp.39015066841381>

VI M 8/3 **Speculative Realism**
Percy Bysshe Shelley, “Mont Blanc” (Wu pp. 1104-08)
Evan Gottlieb, *Romantic Realities*, ch. 4 (pp. 143-87): <https://www-jstor-org.www.libproxy.wvu.edu/stable/10.3366/j.ctt1g050vr>

VI R 8/6 **ROUGH DRAFT OF FINAL PROJECT DUE 9 AM**
WORKSHOP 3 PM

VI SU 8/9 **REVISION OF FINAL PROJECT DUE 9 PM**

SELECTIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY

Biopower and Biopolitics

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- Broglio, Ron. *Beasts of Burden: Biopolitics, Labor and Animal Life in British Romanticism*. SUNY P, 2017.
- Brunon-Ernst, Anne. *Utilitarian Biopolitics: Bentham, Foucault and Modern Power*. Routledge, 2012.
- Canuel, Mark. *Justice, Dissent and the Sublime*. Johns Hopkins UP, 2012.
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- Steinlight, Emily. *Populating the Novel: Literary Form and the Politics of Surplus Life*. Cornell UP, 2018.

Deconstruction

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- Redfield, Marc. *Theory at Yale: The Strange Case of Deconstruction in America*. Fordham UP, 2015.

Ecocriticism, New Materialism, Speculative Realism, Affect Studies

- Bate, Jonathan. *The Song of the Earth*. Harvard UP, 2000.
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- Gottlieb, Evan. *Romantic Realities: Speculative Realism and British Romanticism*. Edinburgh UP, 2016.
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Gender, Feminism, Sexuality, Women's Writing

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Marxism

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New Historicism

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Orientalism, Imperialism, Colonialism, Postcolonialism

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Queer Studies

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Slavery and Race

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