Coming Spring 2027

engl 368~The Romantic Movement

Prof. Adam Komisaruk

mwf 9:30 ~ 10:20 am

In this class we will survey major works of British literature c. 1789-1832. Our readings will most likely fall into thematic clusters: How did British writers respond to the social controversies of the French Revolution? What was behind the decision to revive, at the end of the eighteenth century, fanciful tales set in the Middle Ages? How did the physical landscape come to assume metaphysical significance? What did writers see as the power—and dangers—of the human passions? What did it mean for the poet to take on the stature of "unacknowledged legislator of the world"? In addition to exploring these "Romantic" themes, however, we will try to question the assumptions that underlie them: If William Wordsworth claims that nature is so important to him, why do his poems tend to be more about himself than about the landscape? If the French Revolution was about "fraternity," where would women fit in? What happens to the great British "national tale" when subjugated people—in Africa, east India, Ireland—start writing back? Part of this strategy is to try to enlarge our sense of the "major" or "canonical" Romantic works. Some of our authors will be familiar to you even though they were obscure in their own day (William Blake); others, who were immensely popular in their own day, you may never have heard of before (Felicia Hemans)!

Readings may include:

The Rights of Man, the Rights of Woman Edmund Burke, *Reflections on the Revolution in France* • Hannah More, *Village Politics* • Tom Paine, *The Rights of Man* • Helen Maria Williams, *Letters from France* • Mary Wollstonecraft, the *Vindications* • ***Romance and Gothic*** Samuel Taylor Coleridge, *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* • Sydney Owenson, Lady Morgan, *The Wild Irish Girl* • Ann Radcliffe, *The Mysteries of Udolpho* • Sir Walter Scott, *The Lady of the Lake* • ***"Lakers" and "Cockneys"*** John Keats, *Endymion* • Percy Bysshe Shelley, *Adonais* • William Wordsworth, *The Excursion* • articles from the *Edinburgh Review, Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine* • ***"The Satanic School"*** William Blake, *The Marriage of Heaven and Hell* • George Gordon, Lord Byron, *Manfred* • William Hazlitt, *Lectures on the English Poets* • Robert Southey, *A Vision of Judgment* • selected secondary criticism • **more!**

ENGL 368 is a literary research-writing course. The main requirement will be a 10-page paper, with its various components distributed throughout the semester: bibliography, source evaluation, review of the secondary scholarship, exploratory essay, rough draft, peer-review workshop, final revision.

Caspar David Friedrich, *Wanderer above a Sea of Fog* (c. 1818)