

English 262—British Literature 2
Tues./Thurs. 11:30-12:45
Dr. John Lamb

Literary Landscapes



For Spring 2021 we will explore roughly 200 years of English literature from 1790 to 1990 through the concept of landscape. Both a thing seen and a way of seeing—a particular way of looking at and picturing the world around us—landscapes are both something we observe and something we inhabit; and they are a milieu of meaningful cultural practices and values.

Landscapes, therefore, are human, cultural, and creative domains as well as natural and physical phenomena. As a form of cultural representation landscape literature is a key medium through which anglophone writers have attempted to understand themselves, other cultures, and the natural world. And representations of landscape can be analyzed as expressions of cultural, political, and economic relations of power.

So in English 262 you will read poets, playwrights, and prose fiction writers from Blake to Beckett and beyond investigating how landscape figures in their representations of the lifeworld.