

Spring Term On-Campus
Day Session SDVV

PM

Instructor: J. James

English 311 English Romantic Poetry

Course Description: A study of the works & times of the English Romantic poets of the 19th Century. This course will specifically examine selective poetry of five major poets: Blake, Wordsworth, Coleridge, Keats, & Shelley. A number of minor Romantic poets will also be included. Relevant historical & philosophical background on the rise of Romanticism in reaction to the Neoclassical or Rational Age will be provided.

Text: David Perkins, English Romantic Poets

Bibliography: See appropriate sections in the text.

General Objectives of Literature: Literature holds many values for the student. Concerned with such realities as life, death, love, the problem of good & evil, literature enriches & clarifies life by contributing to an understanding of man's relationship to society, to his physical environment, to his inner self & God.

Other studies seek similar ends but in other ways. Perhaps the area peculiar to literature is most accurately conveyed by the concept of the "concrete universal". Philosophy & science abstract truth from experience; literature seizes truth in experience.

A good reader is one who both selects judiciously & reads discriminately. Most students are certain to invest substantial portions of their lives in reading literature as well as in attention to the related arts of the theater, film, & others. This means that one of the most important acquisitions possible for a college student is a growing habit of active personal judgment in the selection & appraisal of what he reads & views. He can best initiate himself into a habit of valid & effective judgment by systematic, extensive practice in the critical reading of works of various kinds. The course in literature will provide this practice designed to help the student become a judicious reader of literary form.

How This Course Is Related to General Objectives of University: (1) To develop in the student approaches to the creative & analytical understanding & appreciation of literature, specifically through the study of representative 19th Century English poets; (2) To open to the student the wealth of man's cultural heritage both artistic & intellectual; (3) To encourage a search for truth through literature & to assist the student in forming a value system or a philosophy of life.

Major Assignments: Classes will consist normally of a threefold combination: (1) presentation of key points in literary works & indepth supplements by the instructor; (2) class discussions of these points & the assigned portions of literary works; (3) student presentations on special topics approved by the instructor both to encourage student research & to afford an opportunity to the student for effective oral communication. Student involvement will be emphasized in all aspects of the learning experience.

Tentative Schedule:

Weeks 1-4	Introduction/Pre-Romantics/Crabbe/Blake
Weeks 5-8	Wordsworth/Coleridge
Weeks 9-10	Keats/Shelley
Weeks 11-15	Byron/Selected poets from list given Research Report section
Week 16	Final Exam

****Projected exam dates: end of weeks 4, 8, & 10.**

****Research reports/presentations will be given in the last 4-5 weeks of the term. Schedule will be set up later on.**

<u>Grading:</u>	25%	Exam #1 (Intro to Age/Pre-Romantics/Crabbe/Blake)
	25%	Exam #2 (Wordsworth & Coleridge)
	15%	Exam #3 (Keats & Shelley)
	20%	Major Research Report/Presentation on Romantic Poet of Your Choice
	15%	--Attendance & class participation/interaction
		--Quizzes/in-class responses/in-class journal entries
		--Short panel responses

****Class attendance is essential.** See attendance policy in General Catalog.

****Punctuality, please!** In-class responses will often be given at the start of many class periods. Lateness will prevent one from getting credit for these responses.

Research Report/Presentation Assignment: Starting in week #10 or week #11, each student will be called upon to present a research report on one of the following poets: Walter Schott, Robert Southey, Walter Landor, Thomas Moore, Alfred Lord Byron, Percy Shelley, John Clare, Robert Burns, Leigh Hunt, or one of the women poets (Anna Barbauld, Charlotte Smith, Mary Robinson, Joanna Baillie, Dorothy Wordsworth, Felicia Hemans, or Laetitia Landon).

Your report must include the following:

- (1) A review of biographical details that may be helpful in understanding the poet.
- (2) A brief commentary on the artistic & philosophic views of the poet which are reflected in the poet's works.
- (3) Explication of selective poems (instructor will advise you on which key poems should be covered).
- (4) Your own appreciation & evaluation of the poetry.

--Limit your material beforehand so that you can adequately cover your poet in the class period allotted.

--Type up or word-process commentaries (& xerox appropriate selective poems) so that other class members will have a guide to follow during your presentation.

--Be prepared to answer any questions raised by the instructor or class members.