

ENGL 234: Jane Austen and the Romantic Age
January session 2016

Prof. Stephanie Kuduk Weiner
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Office hours: see below

Course Description:

In this course we will read—and re-read—three novels by Jane Austen. Our first reading will track the development of Austen's unique approach to the realist novel. Our re-reading will investigate how that unique approach participated in Romantic debates about art, personhood, and politics. Austen was an active participant in these debates, a sharp, subtle, and principled writer who tended to explore competing arguments and assumptions rather than render explicit judgments. She weighed in on aesthetic controversies involving beauty and the picturesque, the appropriate language for literature, the ethics of readers' identification with characters, and the truth claims inherent in realism. She considered philosophical questions about how individuals come to know the world and themselves, and the value and danger of a complex inner life of emotion and imagination. She examined the competing claims her contemporaries made for the primacy of the individual, the family, and the community, and for local rootedness and cosmopolitan independence.

This course fulfills the English Department's Literary History II requirement.

Structure:

Before the January session begins, we will read *Pride and Prejudice*, *Emma*, and *Persuasion* on our own. Our reading will be guided by six assignments, two for each novel. During the January session, we will re-read these three novels and encounter for the first time other works of Romantic painting, literature, and nonfiction prose. We will also have two optional Reading Teas in which we will gather in my office (or Downey Lounge) to read aloud from the next day's materials, as would have been typical in the early nineteenth century.

Course Requirements:

- six pre-session reading and reflection exercises (5% each)
- three in-session reading and reflection exercises (5% each)
- three 4-5 p. essays (15% each)
- class participation (10%)

Policies:

- No computers are allowed in class.
- Please be on time. Repeated tardiness will lower your grade.
- Students may miss one session for any reason without penalty. If planned in advance, a second session may be missed without penalty if additional work is done to compensate for the absence. Additional absences will lower your grade. If you miss four or more sessions, I will ask you to withdraw from the course.
- Late papers will be penalized two points per day beginning the day they are due. No work will be accepted after Jan. 20.

Wed. 1/6: Romantic knowledge I: reason and imagination

Morning session (10:00-12:30):

- Coleridge, “This Lime-Tree Bower, My Prison,” “Kubla Khan” (Norton)
- Shelley, from “A Defence of Poetry” up to the *** on p. 863 (Norton)
- Keats, “Ode to a Nightingale” (Norton)
- Keats, letters to Bailey (Nov. 22, 1817) and to George and Thomas Keats (Dec. 21, 27?, 1817) (Norton)

Afternoon session (2:30-4:30):

- *Emma*, vol. I

Th. 1/7: Transparent and literary language

Morning session:

- Locke, “Of the Remedies of the foregoing Imperfections and Abuses [of words],” from *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding* (moodle)
- Wordsworth, “We are Seven,” “I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud,” and [The Blind Beggar; Bartholomew Fair] from Book Seventh of the 1805 *Prelude* (Norton)
- Wordsworth, [The Subject and Language of Poetry] and [What Is a Poet?] from Preface to *Lyrical Ballads* (Norton)
- Byron, stanzas 96-76 of *Childe Harold’s Pilgrimage* and Canto I of *Don Juan* (Norton)
- Clare, “Pastoral Poesy” and “The Peasant Poet” (Norton)

Afternoon session:

- *Emma*, vol. II

Reading Tea (4:45-5:45)

Fri. 1/8: Home and close-to-home: the beautiful and the picturesque

Morning session:

- Constable, “Golding Constable’s Kitchen Garden” (pl. 12), “Golding Constable’s Flower Garden” (pl. 13), “Willy Lott’s House” (pl. 14), “Full-Scale Study for ‘Hadleigh Castle’” (pl. 43), “Hadleigh Castle” (fig. 48)
- Wordsworth, “The Ruined Cottage” (Norton)
- Coleridge, “The Eolian Harp” (Norton)
- Dorothy Wordsworth, from *Alfoxden and Grasmere Journals* (Norton)
- Keats, “To Autumn” (Norton)
- Paintings by Girtin and others (moodle)

Afternoon session:

- *Emma*, begin vol. III

Sat. 1/9: The Romantic individual I: interiority

Morning session:

- Smith, *Elegiac Sonnets* (Norton)
- Wordsworth, ["Emotion Recollected in Tranquillity"] from Preface to *LB* (Norton)
- Coleridge, "Frost at Midnight" (Norton)
- Keats, "On Seeing the Elgin Marbles," "When I have fears that I may cease to be," "Ode on Melancholy" (Norton)
- Clare, "I Am" (Norton)

Office hours 1:30-2:30

Afternoon session:

- *Emma*, finish vol. III

Office hours: 4:30-5:30

Sun. 1/10: no class**Mon. 1/11: Reading**

Morning session:

- PAPER ONE DUE
- Blake, "Introduction" to *Songs of Innocence* (Norton)
- Lamb, from "On the Tragedies of Shakespeare" and "Detached Thoughts on Books and Reading" (Norton)
- Keats, "On First Looking into Chapman's Homer," "On Sitting Down to Read *King Lear* Once Again" (Norton)
- Wordsworth, [The Dream of the Arab] from Book Fifth of the 1805 *Prelude* (Norton)

Afternoon session:

- *Persuasion*, ch. 1-12
- Shakespeare, sonnet #73 (moodle)
- Keats, "To Autumn" (again!) (Norton)

Tues. 1/12: The Royal Navy / The Romantic individual II: localism and cosmopolitanism

Morning session:

- Byron, Canto First of *The Corsair* (moodle)
- Portraits of Lord Nelson (moodle)
- Recommended: Willis, from *In the Hour of Victory* (moodle)
- Recommended: Wilson, from *Empire of the Deep* (moodle)
- *Persuasion*, ch 13-end

Office hours 1:30-2:30

Afternoon session:

- Constable, "Boat-Building near Flatford Mill" (pl. 11), "Flatford Mill" (pl. 16-18), "The White Horse" (pl. 21), "The Haywain" and detail (pl. 23-24), "The Leaping Horse" and detail (pl. 37-38), "The Cornfield" and detail (pl. 39-40)
- Wordsworth, lines 1-32, 271-489, 609-674 of Book First and lines 257-388 of Book Eleventh of the 1805 *Prelude* (Norton)
- Byron, st. 1-2, 68-75, 85-98, and 113-14 of Canto III of *Child Harold's Pilgrimage* (Norton)
- Byron, st. 11-12 of Canto II of *Don Juan* (Norton)
- *Persuasion*, ch. 13-end

Office hours: 4:30-5:30

Wed. 1/13: no class

Th. 1/14: Romantic knowledge II: observation

Morning session:

- PAPER TWO DUE
- Constable, “Salisbury Cathedral from the Bishop’s Grounds” (fig. 9), “A Wood” (plate 2), “Dedham Vale” (pl. 3), “Barges on the Stour at Flatford Lock” (pl. 8), “Autumnal Sunset” (pl. 9), “Landscape: Ploughing Scene in Suffolk” (pl. 10), “Flatford Mill” and details (pl. 16-18), “Salisbury: The Close Wall” (pl. 28), “Salisbury Cathedral from the River” (pl. 35), “Salisbury Cathedral from the Meadows” (pl. 44)
- Blake, “London” from *Songs of Experience* (Norton)
- Wordsworth, “Expostulation and Reply,” “The Tables Turned,” “Simon Lee,” lines 1-77 of “Michael,” and “Resolution and Independence” (Norton)
- Clare, “[Mouse’s Nest]” (Norton)

Afternoon session:

- *Pride and Prejudice*, vol. I

Fri. 1/15: Particularity and universality

Morning session:

- Christ, from *The Finer Optic* (moodle)
- Wordsworth, “Lines, Composed a Few Miles above Tintern Abbey” (Norton)
- Shelley, “Hymn to Intellectual Beauty” (Norton)
- Clare, “The Nightingale’s Nest” and “Clock-a-Clay” (Norton)

Afternoon session:

- *Pride and Prejudice*, vol. II

Reading Tea (4:45-5:45)

Sat. 1/16: Sympathy and identification with literary characters

Morning session:

- Smith, from *Theory of Moral Sentiments* (moodle)
- Radcliffe, from *Mysteries of Udolpho* (moodle)
- Blake, “On Another’s Sorrow” (Norton)
- De Quincey, “On the Knocking at the Gate in *Macbeth*” (Norton)

Office hours 1:30-2:30

Afternoon session:

- *Pride and Prejudice*, vol. III

Office hours: 4:30-5:00

Sun. 1/17 and Mon. 1/18: no class

Tues. 1/19: PAPER THREE DUE at 2:00 p.m.