

Required Readings:

Anthologies:

The Norton Anthology of American Literature, Shorter Sixth Edition, ed. Nina Baym, 0-393-97969-5

The Norton Anthology of English Literature, 8th edition, Volume D: The Romantic Period, ed. Jack Stillinger, 0-393-92720-2.

Primary Texts:

Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*, 3rd ed., ed. Donald Gray, 0-393-97604-1

Barrie, *Peter Pan* *

Chopin, *The Awakening*

Douglass, *Narrative of the Life of an American Slave* 0-393-96966-5

Emerson, *Emerson's Prose and Poetry*, ed. Porte, 0-393-96792-1

Gaiman, *Sandman 4— Season of Mists*

Hawthorne, *The Scarlet Letter and Other Writings*, ed. Leland S. Person, 0-393-97953-9

Montgomery, *Anne of Green Gables* *

Shelley, P.B., *Shelley's Poetry and Prose*, 2nd ed., ed Reiman and Fraistat, 0-393-97752-8

Shelley, Mary Godwin, *Frankenstein*, ed. J. Paul Hunter, 0-393-96458-2

Whitman, *Leaves of Grass and Other Writings*, ed. Moon, 0-393-97496-0

Wordsworth, *The Prelude: 1799, 1805, 1850*, ed. Jonathan Wordsworth *et al*, 0-393-09071-X

Required and Recommended Secondary Readings:

Ann Mellor, "Why Women Didn't Like Romanticism" (*webpost*)

Bloom, *The Anxiety of Influence* (Oxford).

Poe, selected works (*webpost*)

Young, "Conjectures on Original Composition" (*webpost*)

 British Romanticism

Session 1 (Wednesday, 6 September): Introduction

- Introduction to the course and distribution of materials.
- The Eighteenth Century Background: Defining and Dating Romanticism(s)
- Exemplary openings: Wordsworth, "My Heart Leaps Up," "I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud," and "The World is Too Much with Us" (handouts).

Session 2 (Wednesday, 13 September): **Blake** (1727-1857) and **Wollestoncraft** (1759-1797):Blake:

- Poetry: from *Songs of Innocence* "The Ecchoing Green" (*NAEL* 82-83)[†], "The Lamb" (83-84), "The Little Black Boy" (84), "Holy Thursday" (86), "Nurse's

* Any trade edition will do. Montgomery fans may want to own Cecily Devereaux's annotated edition (Ontario, Canada: Broadview, 2004).

[†] *The Norton Anthology of English Literature*, 8th edition, Volume D: The Romantic Period.

Song" (86-87): from *Songs of Experience*; "The Clod and the Pebble" (89), "Holy Thursday" (89), "The Chimney Sweeper" (90), "The Sick Rose" (90), "Ah Sunflower!" (93), "London" (94).

- Blake's Prose: *The Marriage of Heaven and Hell* (NAEL 111-20) .

Barbauld (1743-1825): "The Mouse's Petition" 27-28), "Washing-Day" (37)

Wollstonecraft

- Mary Wollstonecraft, "A Vindication of the Rights of Woman" (NAEL 170-95)
- **Suggested Report:** Wollstonecraft's Feminism in Context; Wollstonecraft's quarrel with Rousseau.

Session 3 (Wednesday, 20 September): William **Wordsworth** (1770-1850)

Wordsworth

- "We Are Seven," "Lines Written in Early Spring," "Expostulation and Reply," "The Tables Turned" (248-52), "The Solitary Singer" (314-15), "Lines (Composed a Few Miles above Tintern Abbey. . .)" (258-62)

Wollstonecraft and Burke:

- Burke, "from Reflections on the Revolution in France" and Wollstonecraft, "from A Vindication of the Rights of Man" (NAEL 152-167)
- **Antithetical Reading:** Wordsworth's "Expostulation and Reply" and Yeats's "Ego Dominus Tuus"

Session 4 (Wednesday, 27 September): **Wordsworth II: The Great Ode** and the **Romantic Sonnet**

Wordsworth

- Poetry: "Ode: Intimations of Immortality" (308-12). The Sonnets: "The World Is Too Much with Us" (319), "Surprised by Joy" (320), "Steamboats, Viaducts, and Railways" (320-21).
- Prose: excerpt from the 1802 "Preface to *Lyrical Ballads*" (263-74)
- Romanticism and The Fall
- **Suggested Report:** The Intimations Ode and the Romantic Revision of The Fall

Session 5 (Wednesday, 4 October): Samuel Taylor **Coleridge** (1772-1834)

***** First paper due *****

Coleridge:

- Poetry "The Eolian Harp" (426-28), *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* (430-46), "Kubla Khan" (446-48), "Frost at Midnight" (464-66), "Dejection: An Ode" (466-69) "Epitaph" (473-44).
- Prose: from *Biographia Literaria*, "[On Fancy and Imagination. . .]" and "From Chapter 13" (476-78); from *Lectures on Shakespeare* (485-88).
- **Suggested Report:** Coleridge's *Christabel* and his Projected Epic "poem on the Origins of Evil"

Session 6 (Wednesday, 11 October) : P.B. **Shelley** (1792-1822) and John **Keats** (1795-1821)

Shelley:

- Poetry: “Mont Blanc” (762-66), “Ozymandias” (768), “England in 1819” (771), “The Ode to the West Wind” (772-75).
- Prose: Excerpt from *A Defence of Poetry* (838-50).

Keats:

- Poetry: “On First Looking Into Chapman’s Homer” (880), from “Sleep and Poetry” (881-82), “Bright Star” (898-99), “Ode to a Nightingale” (903-4), “Ode on a Grecian Urn” (905-6), “Lamia” (910-25), “To Autumn” (925-26).
- Prose: Letter to Benjamin Bailey Letter (940-42), George and Thomas Keats (942-43), Richard Woodhouse (947-48), George and Georgianna Keats (948-52), Percy Shelley (953-54).
- **Suggested Report:** A reading of Shelley’s “Mont Blanc” or *Defence of Poetry*; a reading of Keats’s “The Eve of St. Agnes” or the Odes.
- **Antithetical Reading:** Keat’s “Ode on a Grecian Urn” and Stevens’ “Anecdote of the Jar”

Session 7 (Wednesday, 18 October): Jane **Austen** (1775-1817) and Mary **Shelley** (1797-1851)

Austen: *Pride and Prejudice* (1813)

- Susan Fraiman, “The Humiliation of Elizabeth Bennet” (*P&P* 376-84)

Shelley: *Frankenstein*

- Ann Mellor, “Why Women Didn’t Like Romanticism: The Views of Jane Austen and Mary Shelley” (*handout*).
- **Suggested Report:** Austen as Afterthought :Was She a *Romantic?*;

American Romanticism

Session 8 (Wednesday, 25 October): **Jefferson**, **Emerson** (1803-82), and **Poe** (1809-49).

Jefferson: *NAAL**, 335-49.

Emerson:

- Prose: *Nature* (*Emerson's Prose and Poetry*, ed. Porte, 27-55); “Fate” (261-78).
- Poetry: “Each and All”

Poe:

- Prose: “The Fall of the House of Usher” (*NAAL* 714-26).
- Poetry: “Sonnet: To Science” (696), “The Raven” (697-701), “The Sleeper,” “The Lake,” and “Alone” (*webposts*),
- **Suggested Report:** Evaluating Poe’s Contribution.
- **Antithetical Reading:** Wordsworth’s nature lyrics and Poe’s “Alone” or “The Lake.”

* *The Norton Anthology of American Literature*, Shorter Sixth Edition, ed. Baym.

Session 9 (Wednesday, 1 November): **Hawthorne** (1804-1864) and **Thoreau** (1817-62)

Hawthorne:

- *The Scarlet Letter*
- “Young Goodman Brown” (NAAL 610-19)

Thoreau: “Resistance to Civil Government” (837-52).

- **Suggested Report**: A Reading of *The Scarlet Letter* against some contemporary attacks

Session 10 (Wednesday, 8 November): **Whitman** (1819-1892) and **Dickinson**

Whitman

- *Song of Myself* (in *Leaves of Grass and Other Writings*)

Dickinson: poems in NAAL (t. b.a.)

- **Antithetical Readings**: Whitman’s “Farewell, My Fancy” and Stevens’ “Final Soliloquy of the Interior Paramour”

Session 11 (Wednesday, 15 November): **Douglass** (1818-95) and **Melville** (1819-1891)

Melville: t.b.a.

Douglass: *Narrative of the Life of an American Slave*.

- **Suggested Report**: A Reading of *Walden* or *Song of Myself*; A Reading of Douglass’ *Narrative* in contemporary context; An Overview and Assessment of British and American Romanticism(s)

Session 12 (Wednesday, 29 November): **Twain** (1835-1910) and The Reaction to Romanticism

- Twain, “Fenimore Cooper’s Literary Offences” (NAAL 1432-40)
- Barrie, *Peter Pan*
- Chopin, *The Awakening*

Session 13 (Wednesday, 6 December): Romanticism and the Child

- Montgomery, *Anne of Green Gables*
- Babbitt, *Tuck Everlasting* (time permitting)

Session 14 (Wednesday, 13 December): Romanticism Now

- Gaiman, *Sandman 4— Season of Mists*
- Critics of Romanticism: Bloom’s *Anxiety of Influence* in context of our reading

ASSIGNMENTS: You will be required to produce a fluent, 2-3 page written summary of your seminar presentation and an additional (12-15 page) paper that must be a detailed analysis either of a theoretical approach to a specific text, a close reading of one or more poems by an author of your choice, or an antithetical pairing of texts across historical or period lines. If you happen to be leading a seminar discussion prior to the first paper deadline, your first paper may be *either* the seminar summary *or* the second (12-15 page) longer paper. The term will conclude with a final written examination, on a date to be announced.

Guiding questions and IDs: Among the handouts (and also a *webpost*) is a packet of “Guiding Questions,” passages from critics or poets that have struck my attention and may excite yours. You can

use these as prompts to stimulate your thinking and writing about specific texts or poets. In addition, from time to time I may sound out your knowledge of individual texts—poems, novels, essays—with brief in-class or emailed thought experiments or identification exercises.

READINGS: The work load is designed to ensure maximum coverage of a writer's work and of the literary record. As always, an essential ingredient is and will be your collective curiosity and willingness to assume intellectual responsibility for works that I may not incorporate directly into lectures, some of which will of necessity be scripted, and of other texts that I may not actually assign but with which I may assume some familiarity, if not intimacy, on your part.

SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS are formal presentations of your views of a particular poet's work or works or of a conceptual problem related to Romanticism. This work must be typed (double-spaced) and prepared for distribution either in hard copy on the night of your presentation or as an emailed attachment sent to the listserv address (poetry-british-american@camden.rutgers.edu) at a reasonable interval—no more than twenty-four hours—prior to your presentation.

WEB POSTINGS (or *Webposts*) are primary and secondary course texts, most of handout length, that are available as downloads from <http://crab.rutgers.edu/~barbares/> either as Microsoft Word documents or as PDF files. Occasionally I will also distribute texts, often the same ones, through the course listserv address.

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SOME INITIAL ANTITHETICAL PAIRINGS

Wordsworth's "My Heart Leaps Up" and Genesis 6-9

Wordsworth's "Expostulation and Reply" and Yeats's "Ego Dominus Tuus"

Wordsworth's nature lyrics and Poe's "Alone" or "The Lake."

Keat's "Ode on a Grecian Urn" and Stevens' "Anecdote of the Jar"

Keats's "To Autumn" and Stevens' "Sunday Morning"

Whitman's "Farewell, My Fancy" and Stevens' "Final Soliloquy of the Interior Paramour"

Whitman's *Song of Myself* sections 24-25 or "Out of the Cradle . . ." and Stevens' "Tea at the Palace of Hoon"

Melville's "Bartleby, the Scrivener" and Poe's "The Raven."

Poe's "Alone" or "The Lake" and Wordsworth's "spots of time"

Emerson's "Each and All" and Stevens' "The Snow Man" or "The Final Soliloquy of the Interior Paramour."

Douglass' *Narrative . . .* and Ellison's *Invisible Man*

Montgomery's *Anne of Green Gables* and Wordsworth's "Intimations Ode"

Babbitt's *Tuck Everlasting* and Genesis 1-4

Session	Date	Author	Text	Assignments due
<u>British Romanticism</u>				
1.	Wednesday, 6 Sept.	Introductions Blake, Wordsworth		Syllabus, Bibliography <i>Handouts</i>
2.	Wednesday, 13 Sept.	Blake, Barbauld Wollstonecraft		poems in <i>NAEL</i> <i>A Vindication . . . NAEL</i> , 170-95
3.	Wednesday, 20 Sept.	Wordsworth Wollstonecraft, Burke		poems in <i>NAEL</i> Reports
4.	Wednesday, 27 Sept.	Wordsworth (cont'd)		poems in <i>NAEL</i> Reports
5.	Wednesday, 4 Oct.	Coleridge *** First paper due ***		poems in <i>NAEL</i> Reports
6.	Wednesday, 11 Oct.	P.B.Shelley, Keats		poems in <i>NAEL</i> Reports
7.	Wednesday, 18 Oct.	Mary Shelley Austen		<i>Frankenstein</i> Reports <i>Pride and Prejudice</i>
<u>American Romanticism</u>				
8.	Wednesday, 25 Oct.	Jefferson, Declaration of Independence, Poe Emerson,		<i>NAAL</i> Reports <i>Emerson's Prose and Poetry</i>
9.	Wednesday, 1 Nov.	Hawthorne Melville Thoreau *** Second Paper due ***		<i>The Scarlet Letter</i> Reports <i>T.b.a. in NAAL</i> "Civil Gov't," <i>NAAL</i>
10.	Wednesday, 8 Nov.	Douglass Melville		<i>Narrative . . .</i> Reports <i>t.b.a.</i>
11.	Wednesday, 15 Nov.	Whitman Dickinson		<i>Leaves of Grass</i> Reports poems in <i>NAAL</i>
12.	Wednesday, 29 Nov.	The Reaction to Romanticism Chopin Twain		<i>The Awakening</i> <i>t.b.a.</i>
13.	Wednesday, 6 Dec	Romanticism and the Child Montgomery Barrie		<i>Anne of Green Gables</i> <i>Peter Pan</i>
14.	Wednesday, 13 Dec.	Romanticism Now		<i>Sandman-Season of Mists</i>