

## **E20B POETRY II: Romantics and Victorians**

**Lecturer:** Dr. Richard Clarke

**Prerequisite:** A pass in E10A. A pass in E20A would be welcome but is not mandatory.

**Contact hours:** Two 1-hour lectures and one 1-hour tutorial per week

The goal of this course is to introduce students to some of the most important canonical poetry written during the Romantic (1785-1830) and Victorian (1830-90) periods of English Literary History. The Romantic poets to be studied include William Blake, William Wordsworth, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Percy Bysshe Shelley, John Keats, and Elizabeth Barrett Browning. The Victorian poets to be studied include Alfred Lord Tennyson, Matthew Arnold, Robert Browning, and Gerard Manley Hopkins. Students are required to familiarise themselves with all the poems listed below by each of these poets.

By paying close attention to both poetic *techniques* and *themes*, students will be encouraged to perform close textual analyses of the poems in question, to become familiar with the characteristics of the various poetic genres encountered (e.g. the ode), as well as to situate the poems in relation to the lives of the poets involved and, by extension, the economic, political and ideological features of the socio-historical contexts in which they were produced. Some of the most important factors that we will consider in this regard will include the French Revolution, the Industrial Revolution, the rise of Darwinism, etc.

We will also take into consideration how the Romantics and their Victorian successors viewed their own poetry by examining in close detail such seminal theoretical statements as Wordsworth's Preface to Lyrical Ballads, Matthew Arnold's The Study of Poetry, etc.

**Required texts:** Frances Ferguson, et al., eds. The Norton Anthology of Poetry (NAP)  
(All required readings may be found in NAP unless otherwise indicated)

**Recommended texts:** J.R. Watson                    English Poetry of the Romantic Period, 1789-1830  
Bernard Richards                    English Poetry of the Victorian Period, 1830-90

<b>Assessment:</b>	Tutorial participation and presentation(s)	-	10%
	One term paper (2,500 - 3,000 words)	-	30%
	Final exam	-	60%

NB: Students are forewarned that a) **essays must be written according to the guidelines set out in the MLA Handbook and the Faculty of Humanities Guidelines for Essay-Writing**: SLOPPY WORK WILL BE PENALISED; b) departmental regulations decree that even if students go into the exam with a

passing coursework grade, **students must pass at least one question in the exam in order to pass the course.**

## Weeks 1 - 7: Romanticism (1785-1830)

### Week 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Introduction

Lecture 1: Approaches to literary criticism: 1) New Criticism; 2) Marxism; 3) Intentionality; 4) Genre

#### *Recommended Readings:*

- John Crowe Ransom Criticism as Pure Speculation (in Kaplan)  
 Karl Marx Preface to The Contribution to the Critique of Political Economy  
 (in Hazard Adams, ed. Critical Theory Since Plato)  
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The German Ideology  
 Terry Eagleton Marxism and Literary Criticism (in Kaplan)  
 E.D. Hirsch Objective Criticism (in Adams)  
 Aristotle Poetics (in Kaplan)

Lecture 2: A) The Socio-historical Context of Romanticism: economics (the Industrial Revolution); the social and political consequences thereof (the rise of the Bourgeoisie, the French Revolution).  
 B) Romantic Philosophy: the paradigm shift in the dominant philosophical ideology (from Lockean Empiricism to Kantian Idealism); Hegel's attempt to synthesise Empiricism (Locke) and Idealism (Kant); the poet's Imagination.  
 C) Romantic Poetics and Poetry: characteristic themes, techniques and genres.

#### *Recommended Readings:*

- A) F.E. Halliday England: a Concise History: The Industrial Revolution and Napoleonic War 1783-1830  
 Christopher Cauldwell The Bourgeois Illusion and Romantic Poetry (in Gleckner, et al.)  
 M.H. Abrams English Romanticism: the Spirit of the Age (in Gleckner, et al.)  
 B) T.J. Diffey The Roots of Imagination: the Philosophical Context (in Prickett)  
 Immanuel Kant The Critique of Pure Reason  
 G.W. Hegel The Phenomenology of Spirit  
 M.H. Abrams The Mirror and the Lamp: Romantic Analogues of Art and Mind  
 C) Stephen Prickett Romantic Literature (in Prickett)  
 M.H. Abrams The Mirror and the Lamp: The Development of the Expressive Theory of Poetry and Art  
 ---. Structure and Style in the Greater Romantic Lyric (in his The Correspondent Breeze)  
 A.O. Lovejoy On the Discrimination of Romanticisms (in Gleckner and Enscoe)  
 René Wellek The Concept of Romanticism in Literary History (in Gleckner and Enscoe)  
 Morse Peckham Toward a Theory of Romanticism (in Gleckner and Enscoe)

William Wordsworth Preface to The Lyrical Ballads (in Kaplan)

**Week 2: The Poetry of William Blake**

*Required Readings:* Songs of Innocence: Introduction / The Lamb / Holy Thursday [I] / The Divine Image / The Little Black Boy / The Chimney Sweeper (all in NAP, except The Chimney Sweeper [in Perkins])  
Songs of Experience: Introduction / A Divine Image / Holy Thursday / The Clod and the Pebble / The Sick Rose / A Poison Tree / The Tyger / Ah Sun-Flower / The Garden of Love / London / The Human Abstract / The Chimney Sweeper (All in NAP, except The Chimney Sweeper and The Human Abstract [in Perkins])

**Week 3: The Poetry of Samuel Taylor Coleridge**

*Required Readings:* Lectures: The Aeolian Harp / Dejection: an Ode  
 Tutorial: Frost at Midnight

*Recommended Readings:* Selections from Biographia Literaria (in Kaplan)  
 On Poesy or Art (in Perkins)  
 From The Statesman's Manual (in Adams)

**Week 4: The Poetry of William Wordsworth**

*Required Readings:* Lectures: Selections from The Prelude: from Book I The Stolen Boat (NAP); Book VI Crossing the Alps: Simplon Pass (in Wu); XII The Spots of Time (in NAEL); Book XIII The Climbing of Mt. Snowdon (in Wu)  
 Tutorial: Tintern Abbey / Intimations: Ode to Immortality

*Recommended Readings:* Preface to Lyrical Ballads (in Kaplan)

**Week 5: The Poetry of Percy Bysshe Shelley**

*Required Readings:* Lectures: Hymn to Intellectual Beauty / Mont Blanc  
 Tutorial: Ode to the West Wind / To a Skylark / Ozymandias / Mutability

*Recommended Readings:* A Defence of Poetry (in Kaplan)

**Week 6: The Poetry of John Keats**

*Required Readings:* Lectures: Odes to Psyche / Nightingale / Melancholy  
 Tutorial: Odes to A Grecian Urn / Autumn

*Recommended Readings:* Four Letters (in Kaplan)

**Week 7: Women Romantic Poets**

*Required Readings:* Charlotte Smith: Sonnet to A Nightingale / Sonnet to the South Downs / Sonnet on the Departure of the Nightingale / Sonnet Composed During a Walk on the Downs / Sonnet

Felicia Hemans The Voice of the Wind / Indian Woman's Death-Song / The Spirit's Mysteries / Despondency and Aspiration

Letitia Landon Intimations of Previous Existence / Three Extracts from the Diary of a Week

(all these poems can be found in Andrew Ashfield, ed. Romantic Women Poets [*on reserve*])

Elizabeth Barrett Browning Excerpts from Aurora Leigh in Margaret Higgonet, ed. British Women Poets of the 19th Century (*on reserve*)

*Recommended Readings:* Mary Wolstonecraft Excerpts from A Vindication of The Rights of Woman in Hazard Adams, ed. Critical Theory Since Plato and Miriam Schneir, ed. Feminism: the Essential Historical Writings

**Weeks 8 -12: the Victorian Period (1830-90)****Week 8: Introduction to the Victorian Period**

*Required Readings:*

*Topics:*

The Victorian Period: economics, politics, and ideologies  
Darwinism

**Week 9: The Poetry of Alfred Lord Tennyson**

*Required Readings:* Selections from In Memoriam in NAP

**Week 10: The Poetry of Matthew Arnold**

*Required Readings:*

**Week 11: The Poetry of Robert Browning**

*Required Readings:* My Last Duchess / Soliloquy of the Spanish Cloister / The Bishop Orders His Tomb at Saint Praxed's Church / (NAP)

**Week 12: The Poetry of Gerard Manley Hopkins**

*Required Readings:* God's Grandeur / The Windhover / Pied Beauty / Felix Randall / Spring and Fall / [As Kingfishers Catch Fire . . .] / [Carrion comfort] / [No Worst, There Is None] / [I Wake and Feel the Fell of Dark, Not Day] / [My Own Heart Let Me Have More Pity On] / [Thou Art Indeed Just, Lord] / The Wreck of the Deutschland (all in NAP,

except The Wreck of the Deutschland )

### **KEY LITERARY TERMS**

Students are expected to be familiar with and able to define the following key literary terms (see Abrams's Glossary):

Allegory; Alliteration; Allusion; Ballad; Blank Verse; Content; Dramatic Monologue; Diction; Elegy; Epic; Epiphany; Figurative language; Form; Free Verse; Genre; Imagery; Irony; Lyric; Metaphor; Metonymy; Metre; Ode; Onomatopoeia; Paradox; Pastoral; Persona; Realism; Rhyme; Satire; Sonnet; Stanza; Symbolism; Technique; Theme; Tone; Voice.



## WORKS TO BE CONSULTED

(R indicates on reserve)

### GENERAL INTRODUCTIONS TO THE STUDY OF POETRY:

Abrams, M.H.	<u>A Glossary of Literary Terms</u>
Bach, Bert, et al.	<u>The Liberating Form</u>
Easthope, Anthony	<u>Poetry as Discourse (on order)</u>
Fussell, Paul	<u>Poetic Meter and Poetic Form (on order)</u>

### GENERAL INTRODUCTIONS TO ENGLISH HISTORY

Halliday, F.E.	<u>England: a Concise History</u>
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## ROMANTICS

### PRIMARY SOURCES:

#### *Anthologies of Poetry:*

Ashfield, Andrew, ed.	<u>Romantic Women Poets: 1770-1838</u>	R
Frances Ferguson, et al., eds.	<u>The Norton Anthology of Poetry</u>	R
Margaret Higgonet, ed.	<u>British Women Poets of the 19th Century</u>	R
David Perkins, ed.	<u>English Romantic Writers</u>	R
David Wu, ed.	<u>Romanticism: an Anthology</u>	R

#### *Anthologies of Romantic Literary Theory:*

Charles Kaplan, ed.	<u>Criticism: the Major Statements</u>	R
Adams, Adams, Hazard, ed.	<u>Critical Theory Since Plato</u>	(in in Reference in Reference in R)

### SECONDARY SOURCES:

#### *General Introductions to Poetry of the Romantic Period and its Socio-historical Context:*

Abrams, M.H.	<u>The Mirror and the Lamp</u>	R
---	<u>Natural Supernaturalism: Tradition and Literature</u>	
---	<u>The Correspondent Breeze</u>	R
Bloom, Harold	<u>The Visionary Company</u>	R
.	<u>Poetry and Repression</u>	
Bygrave, Stephen, ed.	<u>Romantic Writings</u>	R
Curran, Stuart	<u>Poetic Form and British Romanticism</u>	R
McGann, Jerome	<u>The Romantic Ideology</u>	
Prickett, Stephen, ed.	<u>The Context of English Literature: the Romantics</u>	R
Watson, J.R.	<u>English Poetry of the Romantic Period, 1789-1830</u>	
<i>General Critical Anthologies on Romantic Poetry:</i>		
Abrams, M.H., ed.	<u>English Romantic Poets</u>	R
Bloom, Harold, ed.	<u>Romanticism and Consciousness</u>	R

- Bristow, Joseph, ed. Victorian Women Poets
- Cosslett, Tess, ed. Victorian Women Poets R
- Curran, Stuart, ed. The Cambridge Companion to British Romanticism
- Gleckner, Robert, et al., eds. Romanticism: Points of View R
- Johnston, Kenneth, et al., eds. Romantic Revolutions: Criticism and Theory
- Leighton, Angela, ed. Victorian Women Poets: a Critical Reader R
- Mellor, Ann, ed. Romanticism and Feminism R
- Wu, Duncan, ed. Romanticism: a Critical Reader
- Critical Anthologies on Individual Poets:*
- Blake**
- Bottrall, Margaret, ed. Songs of Innocence and Experience (Casebook Series)
- Paley, Morton, ed. Twentieth Century Interpretations of Songs of Experience
- Wordsworth**
- Cowell, Raymond, ed. Critics on Wordsworth
- Harvey, W. J., et al., eds. Wordsworth: The Prelude (Casebook Series)
- Jones, Alun, et al., eds. Wordsworth: Lyrical Ballads (Casebook Series)
- Coleridge**
- Jones, Alun, et al., eds. The Ancient Mariner and Other Poems (Casebook Series)
- Shelley**
- Woodings, Robert, ed. Shelley: Modern Judgements
- O'Neill, Michael, ed. Shelley (LCR Series)
- Keats**
- Fraser, G. S., ed. John Keats: Odes (Casebook Series)
- Smith, Hemans, Landon**
- Mellor, Ann, ed. Romanticism and Feminism R
- Emily Bronte**
- Cosslett, Tess, ed. Victorian Women Poets R
- Leighton, Angela, ed. Victorian Women Poets: a Critical Reader R
- Elizabeth Barrett Browning**
- Cosslett, Tess, ed. Victorian Women Poets R
- Leighton, Angela, ed. Victorian Women Poets: a Critical Reader R
- Surveys of Romantic Literary Theory:*
- Abrams, M.H. The Mirror and the Lamp
- Hill, John Spencer, ed. The Romantic Imagination (Casebook Series)

## VICTORIANS

### PRIMARY SOURCES:

#### *Anthologies of Poetry:*

- William E. Buckler, ed. The Major Victorian Poets: Tennyson, Browning, Arnold
- Frances Ferguson, et al., eds. The Norton Anthology of Poetry R



- Margaret Higgonet, ed. British Women Poets of the 19th Century **R**  
 Walter Houghton, et al., eds. Victorian Poetry and Poetics **R**  
*Anthologies of Victorian Literary Theory:*  
 Charles Kaplan, ed. Criticism: the Major Statements **R**  
 Adams, Adams, Hazard, ed. Critical Theory Since Plato **(inin in Referein Referencin Referen**

**SECONDARY SOURCES:**

*General Introductions to the Poetry of the Victorian Period and its Socio-historical Context:*

- Armstrong, Isobel Victorian Poetry: Poetry, Poetics and Politics  
 Gilmour, Robin The Victorian Period  
 Richards, Bernard English Poetry of the Victorian Period, 1830-90

*General Critical Anthologies on Victorian Poetry:*

- Armstrong, Isobel, ed. The Major Victorian Poets: Reconsiderations **R**  
 Bristow, Joseph, ed. Victorian Women Poets  
 Cosslett, Tess, ed. Victorian Women Poets **R**  
 Leighton, Angela, ed. Victorian Women Poets: a Critical Reader **R**

*Critical Anthologies on Individual Poets:*

**Tennyson**

- Hunt, John, ed. Tennyson: In Memoriam (Casebook Series)  
 Stott, Rebecca, ed. Tennyson (LCR Series)

**Matthew Arnold****Robert Browning**

- Bloom, Harold, et al., eds. Twentieth Century Interpretations of Robert Browning  
 Watson, J. R., ed. Men and Women and Other Poems (Casebook Series)

**Hopkins**

- Bottrall, Margaret, ed. Gerard Manley Hopkins: Poems (Casebook Series)  
 Hartman, Geoffrey, ed. Hopkins (Twentieth Century Views Series)