



Shanghai University of Finance & Economics

2021 Summer Program

ENG 101 English Literature

Course Outline

Term: July 12 – August 6, 2021

Class Hours: 12:00-13:50 (Monday through Friday)

Instructor: Professor Robert Barsky

Home Institution: Vanderbilt University

Office Hours: TBA and by appointment

Email: robert.barsky@Vanderbilt.Edu

Credit: 4

Class Hours: This course will have 52 class hours, including 32 lecture hours, professor 8 office hours, 8-hour TA discussion sessions, 4-hour review sessions.

Course Overview:

This course is an introduction to literature in English that teaches students to read and write about English Romantic poetry. Students will be introduced to the major figures of Romanticism, and they will learn about the themes, currents, topics and approaches associated with Romanticism in Britain.

Course Description:

This course is designed to provide a broad overview of English Romanticism, through readings of classic texts from the canon of English literature.

Learning Outcomes:

By the completion of this course, students will have a strong understanding of the classics of English Romanticism, in different genres.

Required Textbook:

The Norton Anthology of Romanticism. Ed. M.H. Abrams. New York: Norton.



Grading & Evaluation:

Attendance, Participation, and Small Assignments 15%

Short assignment 1, on the basic terms of Romanticism: 10%

Short assignment 2, on the works of Blake, Wordsworth and Coleridge: 20%

Short assignment 3, on the works of Mary and Percy Shelley: 25%

Final Presentation, on the works of Byron and Percy Shelley: 30%

Grading Scale

Grading System (1 ~ 100)

A : 94 - 100 A- : 90 – 93

B : 83 - 89 B- : 80 – 82

C : 73 - 79 C- : 70 – 72

D : 63 - 69 D- : 60 – 62

F : Fail

Course Schedule:

Week 1:

An introduction to Romanticism, covering the key terms and ideas, and assessing the context within which Romantic writers created their works. As such, students will learn about the different regions associated with Romanticism, including the Lake District and the Swiss, French and Italian Alps, and they will learn about Romantic conceptions of poetry, the sublime, and the idea of beauty as represented in different works.

Week 2:

We will focus on the works of William Blake, by examining both his literary works and his paintings/drawings. We will then delve into the works of Coleridge and Wordsworth, assessing their relationship, and studying the role that Wordsworth's famous travels on the Continent played in the articulation of his voice. Some of the poems with which we'll engage include William Wordsworth's "Lines Composed a Few Miles above Tintern Abbey..."; "Preface to Lyrical Ballads"; and "The Prelude".

Week 3

During the summer of 1916, some of the most important works of the entire century were written by a small group of writers, including Mary Shelley, Percy Shelley, Lord Byron, and John Polidori. The impetus was the meeting of all four of them in Byron's infamous Villa Diadoti, on the shores of Lake Lemano, where, following the rules of a game they developed, Mary Shelley created the basis for Frankenstein, Polidori described his Vampyre. Subsequently, following some of the themes they'd discussed that evening, Lord Byron



embarked upon “Darkness”, and Percy Shelley set the stage for his work called “Mont Blanc”. We will discuss all of those works, and situate them in the context of that cold and stormy summer of 1816.

Week 4

For the final week, we’ll focus upon the contrast between the sublime and the beautiful, with particular reference to works by Mary Shelley, Lord Byron, and John Keats. We will also discuss the Italian setting for Romanticism, completing the course with a visit to Rome, where Keats eventually succumbed to an illness he had contracted in England, and where Byron wrote some of his most memorable lines, recorded in “Don Juan”.