

Department of English & Writing Studies

Romantic Revolutions
English 3351G (001)
Winter 2018

Instructor: Marc Mazur
Office Hours: M 2-3:30 pm,
W 1:30-3:30, or by appointment

Course Location: Talbot College
202



Teaching Assistant: Andrew Sargent
Office Hours: TBA

Course Date/Time: Monday 3:30-
4:30 pm, Wednesday 3:30-5:30 pm

- William Blake, *The Spiritual Form of Pitt Guiding Behemoth*

Prerequisite(s): At least 60% in 1.0 of English 1020E or 1022E or 1024E or 1035E or 1036E or 1042E or 1042E or both of English 1027F/G and 1028F/G, or permission of the Department.

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Course Description

This course reads “Revolutions” metaphorically, placing the French Revolution alongside the other revolutions taking place during the Romantic period, specifically those in politics, aesthetics, and science. These other revolutions will organize how the class approaches the traumatic event of “Revolution” as what both animates and dis-figures the intellectual, social, and political idealism of the period. As inheritors of the revolutionary potential of the public sphere and the Enlightenment subject, this class investigates how Romantic thinkers critique and re-vise the liberalist interpretation of the public sphere, and how Romantic critics argued for extending the right to self-determination to women, the poor, the enslaved, and the disenfranchised. Since the Romantic drive for self-determination emerged alongside new discoveries in science during the period, close attention will be given to the way Romantic artists, writers, and philosophers use the results of science to amplify new ways of thinking about such phenomena as history, the body, and life itself. In short, this class reads how Romantic thought defines itself by its awareness of the limitations of the age of Revolution, but also by the way that it continues to plumb the potential that lays subjacent within the Revolution’s failures and traumas as both a source of problems and possibilities.

Objectives:

By the end of the course, successful students will be able to:

- Think critically about Romantic writing and thought;
- Recognize how Romanticism is characterized by the transformations of the French Revolution;
- Contrast the different publics and counterpublics that originated in the Romantic period with those of earlier and later generations;
- Discuss how issues of women's rights, poverty, slavery and the voices of the disenfranchised traverse the literature of the period;
- Analyze diverse representations of life and how these are informed by Romanticism's engagement with science;
- Appreciate the range and intersection of social, political, philosophical, and scientific issues that contribute to the complexities of living in the Anthropocene;
- Develop critical and creative skills in written work using the appropriate MLA conventions for scholarly writing.

Course Materials

Norton Anthology of English Literature Vol. D, W. W. Norton (9th edition)
Caleb Williams, William Godwin, Broadview Press
Frankenstein, Mary Shelley, Broadview Press (3rd edition)

Methods of Evaluation

The grade for the course will be arrived at as follows:

Participation	5%	
Four Short Written Responses	15%	(Week 9)
Short Paper (750-1000 words)	15%	(Week 6)
Research Paper (2500 words)	25%	(Week 12)
Final Exam	35%	(April, date to be announced)

Active participation is essential to this course, both to a student's own learning and a means to support class discussion. Students should regularly attend class prepared to discuss course readings and be ready to engage in conversation. Participation is evaluated based on the quality and consistency in discussion contributions, the demonstration of active and engaged listening, and a willingness to respond to the contributions of other students.

Short written responses (1 page each) are written at the student's leisure. These must be completed individually and with proper academic rigor. As a discrete medium for students to share opinions on specific topics or readings, these response papers are not research essays, and can therefore be performative, personal, or academic if the student so chooses. It is necessary to cite the text chosen in proper MLA documentation. **All responses are due by the ninth week of class.**

Short papers (750- 1000 words) will address topics provided in class on either William Blake's *Visions of the Daughters of Albion* or the first part of William Godwin's *Caleb Williams*. No secondary criticism is required for this essay. MLA documentation is required. **Short papers are due by the sixth week of class.**

Research papers (2500 words) will require the student to focus on at least two texts from the course, and can build on a text already chosen for the short paper. Secondary criticism is

required (minimum 5 sources). Topics and fuller description will be provided in class. A Thesis and Writing Workshop will also be held on Week 10 that will provide time for collaboration between students and the Instructor. **Research papers are due by the twelfth week of class.**

The Final Exam will be cumulative and the structure will be discussed the last week of classes.

A student must receive a passing grade for both term work and the final examination in order to receive a passing grade for the course. This applies to all courses in all programs offered by the department. Students whose term and final exam grades average 50% or above, even though one of the two is a failure, shall receive a default grade of 48%. **Please note:** The department of English & Writing Studies does not release final grades. All undergraduate grade reports will be available online from the Office of the Registrar.

Students are fully responsible for looking at and being familiar with the information posted on the department website at <http://www.uwo.ca/english/undergraduate/Student%20Information.html>.

Timetable

Political Revolutions: Rights and Wrongs

Week 1: "Introduction, or what is Romanticism?": Class close reads selections from Kant, "What is Enlightenment?" (website)

"Rights and Wrongs": Edmund Burke, "Reflections on the Revolution in France," Thomas Paine, "Rights of Man," Mary Wollstonecraft "A Vindication of the Rights of Men," "A Vindication of the Rights of Woman"

Week 2: "Prophecy and Protest": William Blake, "All Religions are One," "There is no Natural Religion" (a, b), *Visions of the Daughters of Albion*

Week 3-4: "Justice and Power": William Godwin, *Selections from Political Justice 1793* (website), *Caleb Williams*

Aesthetic Revolutions: Strange Fits of Passion

Week 5: "Poetic Experiment": William Wordsworth, "Preface to Lyrical Ballads" (1800), "The Ruined Cottage," "Old Man Travelling," "The Thorn"

Week 6: "Imagination": Samuel Taylor Coleridge, *Biographia Literaria*, Chapter 4, 13, 14, "Rhyme of the Ancient Mariner,"

Week 7: **No Class, Reading Week**

Week 8: "Poetry and History": Percy Shelley, *A Defence of Poetry*, Charlotte Smith, "Beachy Head"

Scientific Revolutions: Experimental Life

Week 9: "Natural Histories": Charlotte Smith, "Beachy Head" (cont.), Lord Byron, "Darkness," *Cain* (website)

Week 10: "Life at a glance": John Clare, "The Lament of Swordy Well," "The Nightingale's Nest" (and Keats "Ode to a Nightingale"), "Mouse's Nest," **Thesis and Writing Workshop**

Week 11: "Life under the gaze": John Keats, "Lamia," "Letter to George and Thomas Keats," "Letter to John Hamilton Reynolds"

Week 12-13: "Monstrous Life": Samuel Taylor Coleridge, *Selections from Theory of Life* (website), Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*

Week 14: Review

Additional Information

Attendance: As your grades will be dependent upon participation, attendance is strongly encouraged.

Laptops/Devices: Laptops and devices are allowed in-class, so long as they do not disturb or detract from the educational experience of other students. No devices will be allowed during exams.

Academic Offences: Scholastic offences are taken very seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following website:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf.”

Email Correspondence: will be replied to in a timely manner and considerate fashion. Many topics are unsuitable for email, however, and questions about lecture material, writing, textual explication and grade discussions all merit face to face consultation. Email can be used to schedule time in office hours.

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Accommodation

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the Office of the Dean of the student's Faculty of registration, together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. The UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and further information regarding this policy can be found at http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf.

Downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC):

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf

Plagiarism:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence.

Plagiarism Checking:

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com <http://www.turnitin.com>.

All instances of plagiarism will be reported to the Chair of Undergraduate Studies. Proven cases of plagiarism will result in a grade of zero for the assignment. Subsequent offences will result in failure for the course.

Support Services

Registrarial Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services <https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login>

Services provided by the USC <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Student Development Centre <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to MentalHealth@Western:
<http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.