

Department of English & Writing Studies

English 4350F (001)
Romantic Ways of Knowing
Fall 2025



Instructor: Monika Lee

Prerequisite: 1.0 from English 3000-3999 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

How do we know something? Conceptions about knowledge changed dramatically in late eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century Europe. This seminar on Romanticism and ways of knowing, or modes of cognition, will look at specific texts by English Romantic writers (ex. Blake, Mary Shelley, and Coleridge), in light of various Romantic modalities: genres, disciplines, and theories. Our class will explore Romantic texts in the contexts of ecology, prophecy, dream, music, painting, philosophy, politics, and science.

Objectives:

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

- read closely and comprehend accurately intellectually challenging texts from late eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century Britain.
- write a comparative literary essay.
- write clearly and effectively.
- edit their own writing.
- read and understand a difficult historical text.
- identify traits and themes of Romanticism.
- understand language and idioms from early nineteenth-century England.
- reason logically and argue persuasively.

- analyse critically pieces of writing in a variety of styles, genres and idioms.
- cite the names, titles and content of some influential literary and critical works of the Romantic period.
- use proper format and citation in essay writing in the field of modern languages.
- interpret and explain complex elements in literary texts.
- manage time and workload.
- communicate orally in a group.
- communicate effectively to a group.
- be independent in their critical thinking.

Course Materials

Required Texts

Norton Anthology of English Literature: The Romantic Period. Vol. D. Eleventh Edition. (\$67.30)
Shelley, Mary. *The Last Man.* (Penguin) (\$24.95)

Methods of Evaluation

Take-home Research Essay: 25% (read late essay policy below)

Seminar: 30% (Designated Assignment)

Attendance and Participation (including pop quizzes): 25%

(Completion of the assigned readings on time; regular and punctual class attendance; classroom etiquette; meaningful and regular contributions to discussion; evidence of reading through surprise pop quizzes). Note that talking to or e-mailing the professor outside of class time does **not** count toward the participation grade.

Three in-class essays: 20% (best two out of three, 10% each) (built-in flexibility)

(Completion of the assigned readings on time; regular and punctual class attendance; classroom etiquette; meaningful and regular contributions to discussion; evidence of reading through surprise pop quizzes). Note that talking to or e-mailing the professor outside of class time does **not** count toward the participation grade.

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>.

Additional Information

*No laptops or phones are allowed in class. Externally approved accommodations may result in exceptions; class notes will be posted on Brightspace.

*Late essays will be penalized at a rate of 2% per academic day, unless academic accommodation is approved by your faculty or a written request for an extension has been approved **before** the essay deadline. Essays will not be accepted after the last day of classes.

*The use of generative AI (Chatbpt and other plagiarism software) will be considered a scholastic offence in this course. Plagiarized or partly plagiarized assignments will receive a grade of 0.

Academic Consideration

Students may request academic consideration in cases of extenuating circumstances – that is, personal circumstances beyond the student's control that have a **substantial but temporary** impact on the student's ability to meet essential academic requirements.

1. Requests for academic consideration are made to the Academic Advising office of the student's Faculty of Registration.
2. Requests for academic consideration include the following components:
 - a. Self-attestation signed by the student;
 - b. Indication of the course(s) and assessment(s) relevant to the request;
 - c. Supporting documentation as relevant.

Requests without supporting documentation are **limited to one per term per course**.

Instructors may designate one assignment or assessment as exempt from this allowance. In this course, requests for academic consideration pertaining to the final examination **must** be accompanied by supporting documentation.

Assignments with flexible deadlines and any term work that does not count towards the course grade are **not** eligible for additional consideration.

Documentation for medical illness, when required, includes the completion of a Western Student Medical Certificate (SMC) or, where that is not possible, equivalent documentation, by a health care practitioner.

Requests linked to examinations scheduled by the Office of the Registrar during official examination periods as well as practice laboratory and performance tests typically scheduled in the last week of term **always** require formal supporting documentation.

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory in all classes and tutorials. In cases of excessive absenteeism (e.g. more than 9 unexcused hours for a half course, 18 for a full course), which are not accounted for by either academic consideration or accommodation, students may be debarred from taking the final examination, and will receive an official warning to this effect by or before the course drop date (see Senate policy). In classes with or without final exams, students who do not attend class will receive 0% for course participation grades. Unless other policies dictate a different set of penalties in specific English and Writing Studies programs, this will apply to all department programs.

Gender-Based and Sexual Violence

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence (GBSV) and providing compassionate support to anyone who is going through or has gone through these traumatic events. If you are experiencing or have experienced GBSV (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at the following website: https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html. To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.

Intellectual Property/Copyright

All instructor-written materials (e.g. PowerPoints, lecture notes, oral lectures) for this course are created solely for students' personal use within the course, and remain the instructor's intellectual property. Further reproduction, fixation, distribution, transmission, dissemination, communication, or any other uses, without securing the consent of the copyright owner (the course instructor) may be an infringement of copyright. You may not distribute, email, or otherwise communicate these materials to any other person. These limitations extend to recording, photographing, or sharing lectures (online or in-person) and lecture material without permission. Posting the instructor's content from this course to online course sharing sites like OneClass or Course Hero without permission is both an infringement of intellectual property law and a violation of academic integrity guidelines. The instructor will pass these cases on to the Western University Ombudsperson or their Department Chair as appropriate.

Religious Accommodation

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the Western Multicultural Calendar.

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/>

Academic Support & Engagement <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.

Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence

The use of generative AI (Chatgpt and other plagiarism software) will be considered a scholastic offence in this course. Plagiarized or partly plagiarized assignments will receive a grade of 0.

Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.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.

Schedule of Classes and Assignments

Wed. Sept. 10 – Introduction; William Blake’s “Hear the Voice of the Bard” or “Introduction to Songs of Experience”; Course business.

Wed. Sept. 17 – Blake’s *America* (prophecy)

Wed. Sept. 24 – **In-class Essay:** from Mary Wollstonecraft’s *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*; Anna Laetitia Barbauld’s “Epistle to William Wilberforce”. (politics, human rights)

Wed. Oct. 1 – William Wordsworth’s “Ode: Intimations of Immortality”; “The Solitary Reaper”; “We are Seven”. (nature, music, intuition)

Wed. Oct. 8 – Samuel Taylor Coleridge’s “The Eolian Harp”; “Frost at Midnight”; From Chapter 13 of *Biographia Literaria* (conversation, dialogue, imagination).

Wed. Oct. 15 – **In-class Essay:** John Keats’ *The Fall of Hyperion* (dream, psychology)

Wed. Oct. 22 – Mary Shelley’s *The Last Man* (politics)

Wed. Oct. 29 – *The Last Man* (emotion, spirituality)

FALL READING WEEK – Nov. 3 to Nov. 7

Wed. Nov. 12 – **In-class Essay:** P.B. Shelley’s *The Cenci*. (art)

Wed. Nov. 19 – P.B. Shelley’s short lyrics on violets; from Erasmus Darwin’s “The Loves of Plants” (science)

Wed. Nov. 26 – P.B. Shelley *Epipsychidion* (philosophy); **RESEARCH ESSAYS DUE**

Wed. Dec. 3 – Conclusions