

Romantic Dialogues: “An Unremitting Interchange”
English 9157A

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Class Time: Thurs. 12:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Office Hours: Mon. 3:15 – 4:15 p.m.; Wed. 2:15 – 3:15 p.m. or by appointment.

(Because my office is at Brescia, I will also try to be available on the main campus right after class on Thursday.)

Course Description: This course examines dialogues within and between Romantic texts, and it reconfigures influence as dialogue. Students will read paired Romantic texts alongside Mikhail Bahkin, Hélène Cixous, and Julia Kristeva to theorize dialogism and intertextuality. Productive intertextual dialogues in William Wordsworth and Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Mary Shelley and Percy Bysshe Shelley, Mary Wollstonecraft and William Godwin constitute Romantic modes of cognition. Moreover, conversation and dialogue figure internally within Romantic texts; Coleridge’s *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*, P.B. Shelley’s *The Cenci* and *Prometheus Unbound*, and Mary Shelley’s *Valperga* all dramatize conversations with which our classroom conversation will intersect. The Shelleys’ dialogic intertext will be a focus in the course; the interplay within their writings explores subjectivism, consciousness, identity, and sentiment. Romantic idealisms (Kant, Rousseau) inform “fast influencing” and “an unremitting interchange” between texts in dialogue with one another and with themselves, revealing a split or fragmented self, a multifaceted consciousness or identity, and a polyphonic resistance to authority.

Course Texts:

(Any scholarly edition of the poems is fine. For example, Longman and Norton anthology versions of *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* are excellent.)

Coleridge, Samuel Taylor. *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*. Dover.

Godwin, William. *St Leon*. Broadview.

Shelley, Mary. *1818 Frankenstein*. Oxford World Classics.

---. *Valperga*. Broadview.

Shelley, Percy Bysshe. *The Major Works: Percy Bysshe Shelley*. Oxford University Press.

Wollstonecraft, Mary. *Mary and the Wrongs of Woman*. Broadview.

Wordsworth, William. *The Major Works: William Wordsworth*. Oxford Paperbacks.

Custom Course Package of theoretical texts: “English 9157A”

Electronics Policy: Computers, iphones, ipads, and other devices may not be used during class.

Assignments:

20-page paper (40%) – students must choose a different writer than the one they selected for the seminar.

50-minute seminar (15-20 minutes of oral presentation and 30 of leading seminar discussion) (25%) – students must choose a different writer than for the final paper.

Journal Responses (25%) - One page of analysis of and response to the texts to be discussed that day is submitted at the beginning of the class. Your seven journal responses will enact an intertextual dialogue with course materials and class discussions. No late submissions will be read unless academic accommodation has been granted for allowable medical and family emergency reasons.

Participation (10%) - This portion of the grade is developed according to regular weekly attendance, evidence of careful reading, ability to articulate critical approaches, responsiveness to questions asked in class, listening, civility, punctuality, and conversation.

A note about reading: to succeed in this course without completing the extensive reading on schedule is not feasible. It is a good idea, therefore, to begin early, especially with the longer novels, *St. Leon* and *Valperga*, and the theory custom course package.

*Mental Health: Please seek the appropriate supports and resources to maintain your mental and physical health during graduate school. Some resources are available here:

<http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/>

Support and encourage one another; sleep, move, eat nutritious foods, go outside, and love. My door and ears are open to you.

Schedule of Classes:

Sept. 7 - Introduction to the course; dialogizing influence; identity and intertextuality; Romantic subjectivism and conversation; Jean-Jacques Rousseau.

Sept. 14 – JOURNAL: Wordsworth’s “Salisbury Plain” and “The Discharged Soldier”; Coleridge’s *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*; de-authoring poetry.

Sept. 21 – JOURNAL: Wordsworth and Coleridge, gothic dialogues; “The Thorn,” “Christabel”.

Sept. 28 – JOURNAL: Mary Wollstonecraft’s *The Wrongs of Woman*; William Godwin’s *St. Leon*; perils of (im)mortality.

Oct. 5 – JOURNAL: Godwin’s *St. Leon*; Mary Shelley’s 1818 *Frankenstein*; Bakhtin’s dialogic imagination and the novel.

Oct. 12 – FALL READING WEEK – no classes

Oct. 19 – *Frankenstein* and *St. Leon*.

Oct. 26 – JOURNAL: Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* and P.B. Shelley's *Prometheus Unbound*; Kantian and Rousseauan idealisms.

Nov. 2 – JOURNAL: P.B. Shelley's *Prometheus Unbound*; Mary Shelley's *Valperga*; intertexts as voices.

Nov. 9 – Mary Shelley's *Valperga* and *Prometheus Unbound*; polyphony and consciousness.

Nov. 16 – JOURNAL: *Valperga* and *The Cenci*; identity and dissolution.

Nov. 23 – *The Cenci* and *Valperga*; radical dialogue.

Nov. 30 – Conclusions and conversation: FINAL PAPERS DUE

*From the Academic Handbook, Rights and Responsibilities, Scholastic Discipline for Graduate Students Page 1 Last Revised: 2011 06

SCHOLASTIC DISCIPLINE FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

SCHOLASTIC OFFENCES

Members of the University Community accept a commitment to maintain and uphold the purposes of the University and, in particular, its standards of scholarship. It follows, therefore, that acts of a nature that prejudice the academic standards of the University are offences subject to discipline. Any form of academic dishonesty that undermines the evaluation process, also undermines the integrity of the University's degrees. The University will take all appropriate measures to promote academic integrity and deal appropriately with scholastic offences.

DEFINITION

Scholastic Offences include, but are not limited to, the following examples:

- Plagiarism - the "act or an instance of copying or stealing another's words or ideas and attributing them as one's own." (Excerpted from Black's Law Dictionary, West Group, 1999, 7th ed., p. 1170). This concept applies with equal force to all academic work, including theses, assignments or projects of any kind, comprehensive examinations, laboratory reports, diagrams, and computer projects. Detailed information is available from instructors, Graduate Chairs, or the School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies. Students also may consult style manuals held in the University's libraries. See <http://www.lib.uwo.ca/services/styleguides.html>
- Cheating on an examination or falsifying material subject to academic evaluation.
- Submitting false or fraudulent research, assignments or credentials; or falsifying records, transcripts or other academic documents.

- Submitting a false medical or other such certificate under false pretences.
- Improperly obtaining, through theft, bribery, collusion or otherwise, an examination paper prior to the date and time for writing such an examination.
- Unauthorized possession of an examination paper, however obtained, prior to the date and time for writing such an examination, unless the student reports the matter to the instructor, the relevant program, or the Registrar as soon as possible after receiving the paper in question.
- Impersonating a candidate at an examination or availing oneself of the results of such an impersonation.
- Intentionally interfering in any way with any person's scholastic work.
- Submitting for credit in any course or program of study, without the knowledge and *written* approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit previously has been obtained or is being sought in another course or program of study in the University or elsewhere.
- Aiding or abetting any such offence.

Evidence of wrongdoing may result in criminal prosecution in addition to any proceedings within the University.

PROCEDURES FOR SCHOLASTIC OFFENCES

If a student is suspected of cheating, plagiarism or other scholastic offence, the University will investigate and if it is satisfied that the student has committed a scholastic offence it may impose sanctions, up to and including expulsion from the University. The procedures that the University will follow are set out in this section.

For further information see:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf