

Liverpool John Moores University

Title: THE QUEST FOR THE SUBLIME
Status: Definitive
Code: **4515MEDCUL** (114920)
Version Start Date: 01-08-2011

Owning School/Faculty: Humanities and Social Science
Teaching School/Faculty: St Helens College

Team	Leader
Clare Horrocks	Y

Academic Level: FHEQ4 **Credit Value:** 12.00 **Total Delivered Hours:** 45.00
Total Learning Hours: 120 **Private Study:** 75

Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Semester 2

Component	Contact Hours
Lecture	22.000
Seminar	22.000
Tutorial	1.000

Grading Basis: 40 %

Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Presentation	AS1	Group presentation (12 minutes, weeks 6-8) on an aspect of Sublime culture in the 18th century. Individual support notes to be submitted.	30.0	
Essay	AS2	One essay of 1500 words, submitted week 15, on an aspect of 19th century Sublime counter-culture and its literary expression. Students will be invited to give a presentation on their chosen topic (non-assessed, for peer group feedback).	70.0	

Aims

To introduce the idea of the Sublime.

To explore some manifestations of the cultural ferment of the late 18th and early 19th centuries, and literary responses.

To explore 19th century counter-cultures and their literary expression.

Learning Outcomes

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Identify the main features of the Sublime and its relation to Romanticism.
- 2 Discuss some manifestations of 'The Quest for the Sublime' in cultural movements of the 18th and early 19th centuries, including science, religion, psychology and/or politics.
- 3 Consider literary responses to these movements.
- 4 Discuss some 19th century counter-cultures, including Bohemia, Aestheticism, Decadence, Spiritualism, the emergence of new sexual subcultures, and their relationship with 'The Quest for the Sublime'.
- 5 Consider literary expressions of 19th century Sublime counter-culture.

Learning Outcomes of Assessments

The assessment item list is assessed via the learning outcomes listed:

Group Presentation	1	2	3
1500 Word Essay	4	5	

Outline Syllabus

Romanticism & The Sublime – Burke: the Sublime & the Beautiful; Kant

Ferment in late 18th & early 19th centuries

science and electricity; Mesmer and 'magnetism'; mystical movements & the 'uncanny'; political upheaval – the French Revolution and reactions

Politics of Paradise - the Shelleys & their circle

Apres le Deluge – Bohemia & Romanticism in Paris Decadence; Aestheticism; Symbolism; the Occult

Alternative sexualities – fantasising femmes fatales - constructions of homosexuality

The psychic, psychological and uncanny in late 19th century - somnambulism;

Spiritualism; psychic research & Theosophy

Learning Activities

Lectures, seminars, student presentations, tutorials, group discussions, video presentations.

References

Course Material	Book
Author	Bernheimer, C.
Publishing Year	2001
Title	Decadent Subjects
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Johns Hopkins UP
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Butler, M.
Publishing Year	1981
Title	Romantics, Rebels and Reactionaries
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	OUP
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Cavallero, D.
Publishing Year	2004
Title	Gothic Vision
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Continuum
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Frayling, C.
Publishing Year	1997
Title	Nightmare
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	BBC
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Hamilton, P.
Publishing Year	2003
Title	Metaromanticism

Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Chicago UP
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Holmes, R.
Publishing Year	1995
Title	Shelley, the Pursuit
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Flamingo
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Merryn, W.
Publishing Year	1971
Title	Revolutions
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Penguin/OUP
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Praz, M.
Publishing Year	1933
Title	The Romantic Agony
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	OUP
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Praz, M.
Publishing Year	1978
Title	The Romantic Agony
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	OUP
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Showalter, E.
Publishing Year	1999
Title	Sexual Anarchy
Subtitle	
Edition	

Publisher	Pan
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Warner, M.
Publishing Year	2006
Title	Phantasmogoria
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	OUP
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Winter, A.
Publishing Year	1999
Title	Mesmerised
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Chicago UP
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Wu, D.
Publishing Year	2005
Title	Romanticism
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Blackwell
ISBN	

Notes

This module examines 'Sublime' culture emerging from Romanticism in the 18th and 19th centuries. The cultural ferment of the 18th century is explored - including excitement over the discovery of electricity; Mesmerism; new mystical movements; fascination for the 'uncanny' (hauntings, vampires etc.); revolution and reaction; and literary responses, particularly those of the Shelleys and their circle.

The development and literary expression of 19th century sublime counter-cultures are then considered, including Parisian Bohemia, Decadence, Aestheticism, Symbolism, Occultism, Spiritualism, Psychic Research, and the construction of alternative sexual identities and orientations.