

Liverpool John Moores University

Title: Romanticism, Realism and Reform: Literature and Society in Britain, 1790-1850
Status: Definitive
Code: **5037ENGLIS** (117964)
Version Start Date: 01-08-2011

Owning School/Faculty: Humanities and Social Science
Teaching School/Faculty: Humanities and Social Science

Team	Leader
Helen Rogers	Y
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Academic Level: FHEQ5 **Credit Value:** 24.00 **Total Delivered Hours:** 47.30
Total Learning Hours: 240 **Private Study:** 192

Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Standard Year Long

Component	Contact Hours
Lecture	11.000
Online	12.000
Seminar	22.000
Tutorial	1.000

Grading Basis: 40 %

Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Essay	AS1	Critical analysis (1500 words)	30.0	
Practice	AS2	student-led presentation	30.0	
Exam	AS3	Seen exam (1 answer/90 minutes)	40.0	1.30

Aims

To develop students' understanding of the major genres of early nineteenth-century poetry and fiction - romanticism, the gothic, realism and melodrama - and to consider their development, characteristics, overlaps and adaptations.

To explore the connections between politics and aesthetics in Britain during two periods of social instability and transformation (the 1810s and 1840s).

To introduce students to some of the major critical and historical debates about the relationship between literature and society in the early nineteenth century.

To enhance skills and confidence in teamwork, facilitating discussion and oral communication through group-led seminar workshops.

Learning Outcomes

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Analyse and evaluate the characteristics, conventions and complexities early nineteenth-century cultural forms through close textual analysis.
- 2 Accept responsibility for preparing and leading a student workshop by working collaboratively to set up appropriate questions and seminar tasks and by facilitating class discussion.
- 3 Exercise significant judgement in relation to some of the major critical and historical debates about the relationship between literature and society in the period.

Learning Outcomes of Assessments

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

Critical analysis (1500 words)	1
student-led presentation	2
Seen exam	3

Outline Syllabus

Introduction: Revolution or Reform?

Part 1: 1810s: Revolution and Romanticism

2 weeks on Mary Shelley, Frankenstein (1818): Revolution, Romanticism and the Gothic

1 week on Romantic Visions: Poetry in the Age of Revolution (Wordsworth, Clare, Shelley, Hazlitt, Keats)

2 weeks on Jane Austen, Northanger Abbey (1818): Counter Revolution, Gothic Parody, and the Reform of Manners

Part 2: 1840s: Realism, Romanticism and Reform

2 weeks on Charlotte Bronte, Jane Eyre (1847): The Woman Question, Interiority

and the 'Other'

1 week on Protest and Sentiment: Poetry in the Hungry Forties (Elizabeth Barrett Browning, Chartist Poets)

2 weeks on Elizabeth Gaskell, Mary Barton (1848): Realism, Melodrama and Sympathy in the Novel of Social Protest

Learning Activities

Lectures
Student-run workshops
Online Discussion Board

References

Course Material	Book
Author	Nancy Armstrong
Publishing Year	1987
Title	Desire and Domestic Fiction
Subtitle	A Political History of the Novel
Edition	
Publisher	Oxford: OUP
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Matthew Beaumont
Publishing Year	2010
Title	A Concise Companion to Realism
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	London: Blackwells
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Alison Chapman,
Publishing Year	1999
Title	Elizabeth Gaskell: Mary Barton and North and South
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Cambridge: Ikon Books
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Beth Newman (ed)
Publishing Year	1996
Title	Jane Eyre

Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Bedford: St Martin's
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Stuart Curran (ed)
Publishing Year	2010
Title	The Cambridge Companion to Romanticism
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Cambridge: Cambridge University Press
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Esther Schor (ed)
Publishing Year	2003
Title	The Cambridge Companion to Mary Shelley
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Cambridge: Cambridge University Press
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Joanne Shattock (ed)
Publishing Year	2010
Title	The Cambridge Companion to English Literature, 1830-1914
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Cambridge: Cambridge University Press
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Janet Todd
Publishing Year	2006
Title	The Cambridge Companion to Jane Austen
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Cambridge: Cambridge University Press
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Duncan Wu
Publishing Year	1999
Title	A Companion to Romanticism
Subtitle	

Edition	
Publisher	London: Blackwells
ISBN	

Course Material	Website
Author	
Publishing Year	
Title	Romanticism and Victorianism on the Net, www.ravon.umontreal.ca
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	
ISBN	

Notes

This module explores new ideas about the individual, society and human nature that developed in response to the political turmoil and social upheavals unleashed by the French Revolution and industrialisation. It examines how literature and culture participated in these profound transformations, offering competing visions of imagination, feeling, manners, humanity, democracy and order. This was a period when aesthetics became deeply political. Writers increasingly saw themselves as social commentators and advocates as well as artists and, in seeking to represent and change their society, they pioneered new cultural forms, including the industrial novel and the literature of protest. As they strove to document the social landscape, many were equally keen to discover the inner self and the landscape of interiority. In exploring these terrains, writers deployed both romanticism and realism and the module investigates the complex relationships between these two literary movements.