

ENGL 166B: Mad, Bad, and Dangerous to Know: the Later Romantics

Professor Rangarajan

MW 11:00-12:20, Sproul 2355

After the triumph of Waterloo and Napoleon's exile, Britain fell into a terrible slump. The end of the wars with France had decimated the nation's economy while streets and villages were full of men crippled from their battles abroad. Radical thinkers who had championed the French Revolution and Napoleon's rise as the dawn of a new, more egalitarian era were crushed, first by Napoleon's betrayal of revolutionary principles, and then by the restoration of the traditional balance of powers following the Congress of Vienna.

In this class we will study the British imperial world post-Waterloo, from Byron and Shelley's shocking "Satanic" dramas to de Quincey's narratives of addiction and murder. Other authors include Scott, Hogg, and Keats.

Week 1: 1/6-1/8

M Introduction

W Shelley, *Frankenstein* (Volume I)

Week 2: 1/13-1/15

M *Frankenstein* (Volume II); Hegel, "Africa," from *The Philosophy of History*

W *Frankenstein* (Volume III) and debate #1

CR #1 Due (1/15)

Week 3: 1/20-1/22

M Holiday

W Keats, *Ode to a Nightingale*; *Ode to a Grecian Urn*; plus letters

Week 4: 1/27-1//29

M Byron, *The Giaour* (Advertisement- line 600)

W Byron, *The Giaour* (line 600-Conclusion)

CR #2 DUE (1/29)

Week 5: 2/3-2/5

M De Quincey, *Confessions of an English Opium Eater* (“To the Reader”-Pleasures of Opium)

W De Quincey, *Confessions of an English Opium Eater* (The Pains of Opium)

Week 6: 2/10-2/12

M Shelley, *The Cenci* (Preface, Acts I-III)

W Paper workshop day

CR #3 rough draft due (2/12)*

Peer review due back to author (2/14)*

***There are no extensions for this due date**

Week 7: 2/17-2/19

M Holiday

W Shelley, *The Cenci* (Acts IV-V); debate #2

Week 8: 2/24-2/26

M Hogg, *Confessions of a Justified Sinner* (5-54)

W Hogg, *CJS* (55-129)

CR #4 DUE (2/26)

Week 9: 3/2-3/4

M Hogg, *CJS* (130-Conclusion)

W Scott, *The Highland Widow*

Week 10: 3/9-3/11

M Scott, *The Highland Widow*, *The Two Drovers*

W Conclusion

Final Paper Due 3/18

Course Requirements

Papers

Students are responsible for one close-reading presentation, four short (2 page) close readings, one final paper (4-6 pages), and weekly reading quizzes.

CR #1—2-page close reading of no more than 4 sentences/lines of poetry. Full points for submission

CR #2-- Same as above, but this reading must contain a provisional (underlined) thesis. Graded.

CR # 3-- Same form as #2 (close reading plus thesis), but this essay will be exchanged and closely reviewed by a peer reviewer. Full points for submission of essay and completed peer review.

CR #4-- This is a rewrite of one of your previous close readings. Choose the weakest and substantially revise it with a workable thesis. Submission must include the original paper. Graded.

Final paper—For your final paper you must write on one of the readings from Week 7 and after (*The Cenci* through *The Two Drovers*).