

**Teacher:** Dr. Jim Varn

**Office:** English Department

**Office Hours:** MWF 11:00-12:00

TR 8:00-11:00

**Writing Center** MW 12:00-1:00

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**Textbook:** Greenblatt, Stephen, General Editor. *The Norton Anthology of English Literature: The Major Authors*, Ninth Edition.

Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein* <<https://ebooks.adelaide.edu.au/s/shelley/mary/s53f/>>

Prerequisites: EN 101, EN 102, EN 201, and EN 202

**Course Description:** In this course, students will read the Romantic Poets of England during the Nineteenth Century. We will read Blake, Wordsworth, Shelley, Coleridge, Keats, and Lord Byron. The romantic poets were rebelling against the strict forms of neoclassical poetry. Instead of having a high literary style, romantic writers, like William Wordsworth, claimed that poetry could take as its subject children and country folk. Some of the romantics were interested in the supernatural. Samuel Taylor Coleridge's, *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*, has supernatural themes, as does Keats's, *The Eve of Saint Agnes*. Percy Shelly, another romantic poet, claimed that poets are the unacknowledged legislatures of the world. Romantic poets were idealists and individualists. Some of them believed strongly in democratic principles. Wordsworth wrote about romantic poetry saying, "The objects of the Poet's thoughts are everywhere; though the eyes and senses of man are, it is true, his favorite guides, yet he will follow wheresoever he can find an atmosphere of sensation in which to move his wings. Poetry is the first and last of all knowledge—it is as immortal as the heart of man."

**Course Objective:** The students will study to the major poets of English Romanticism, looking particularly at the cultural, political, historical, and aesthetic aspects of the movement. Students will look closely at the texts of the poetry and write literary analyses of at least two poems from each author, as well as several exams.

**Upon completion of the course, students will be able to**

Write literary analyses of nineteenth century poets;

Write a research paper on a nineteenth century topic;

Compare the different authors of the nineteenth century;

Discuss cultural and historical events of the nineteenth century;

Read important secondary sources on nineteenth century literature.

**Readings:**

**William Blake 1451-1454**

Week 1

8/20-9/7

**From Songs of Innocence 1456-1461**

Introduction 1457

The Echoing Green 1457-1458

The Lamb 1459

The Little Black Boy 1458-1459

The Chimney Sweeper 1459-1460

The Divine Image 1460

Holy Thursday 1461

Nurse's Song 1461

Infant Joy 1461-1462

Exam on Blake 120 minutes

Essays on Blake 120 minutes

200 points

**From Songs of Experience 1462-1472**

Introduction 1462

Holy Thursday 1464

The Chimney Sweeper-1465

Nurse's Song 1465

The Sick Rose 1465-1466

Tyger 1466-1467

The Garden of Love 1468

London 1469

The Human Abstract 1469-1470

Infant Sorrow 1470

A Poison Tree 1470-1471

Exam on Blake 120 minutes

A Divine Image 1471-1472  
minutes

Short Essays on Blake 120

200 points

9/10-9/28

**William Wordsworth 1532-1535**

**From Lyrical Ballads (Poems)**

We are Seven 1535

Lines Composed a Few Miles above Tintern Abbey 1539-1543

Strange fits of passion have I known 1556

She dwelt among the untrodden ways 1556-1557

Three years she grew 1557-1558

A slumber did my spirit seal 1558

I travelled among unknown men 1558-1559

I wandered lonely as a cloud 1585-1586

My heart leaps up 1586

Exam on Wordsworth 120 minutes

Elegiac Stanzas 1590-1592

Essays on Wordsworth 120 minutes

200 points

**The 1805 Prelude 1595-1597**

The Crossing of the Alps 1598-1599

The Climbing of Snowdon 1600-1601

10/1-10/19

**Samuel Taylor Coleridge 1658-1660**

The Eolian Harp 1660-1662

The Rime of the Ancient Mariner 1664-1680

Kubla Khan 1680-1682

Frost at Midnight 1698-1700

Dejection: An Ode 1700-1703

Exam on Coleridge 120 minutes

On the Imagination 1712

Essays on Coleridge 120 minutes

10/22-11/2

200 points

**Percy Bysshe Shelley 1784-1786**

Mutability 1787

To Wordsworth 1787

Mont Blanc 1788-1791

200 points

Ozymandias 1794

Exam on Shelley 120 minutes

Ode to the West Wind 1796-1798

Essays on Shelley 120 minutes

11/5-11/23

**John Keats 1874-1877**

On First Looking into Chapman's Homer 1877

On Seeing the Elgin Marbles 1879-1880

When I have fears that I may cease to be 1884

La Belle Dame Sans Merci: A Ballad 1896-1897

Ode to a Nightingale 1900-1902

Ode on a Grecian Urn 1902-1904

200 points

Ode on Melancholy 1904-1905

Exam on Keats 120 minutes

To Autumn 1923-1924

Essays on Keats 120 minutes

### **Keats's Letters**

The Authenticity of the Imagination 1924-1926

Negative Capability 1926-1927

**(Skip back)**

11/26-12/7

### **George Gordon, Lord Byron 1720-1724**

Written after Swimming from Sestos to Abydos 1725

She Walks in Beauty 1726

Stanzas for Music 1726-1728

100 points

Darkness 1728-1729

Exam on Byron 120 minutes

So we'll go no more a roving 1730

Essays on Byron 120 minutes