

Romantic Fiction

Fall 2014



Caspar David Friedrich – Man and Woman Contemplating the Moon (c.1818)

Instructor:
Office:

Dr. Peter Mathews
College of Humanities, Room 215

Course Description

When studying the history of Romantic literature, the focus has traditionally fallen on the poetry of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. The intention of this course is to examine instead some of the great Romantic fiction of that period through a representative sample of works from America, Germany, Russia and France.

Course Objectives

- To introduce students to important representative Romantic novels.
- To introduce students to the major shifts in literature during this time.
- To increase students' skills in reading and interpreting Romantic novels.
- To enhance students' reading and critical thinking skills.
- To enhance students' discussion skills.
- To enhance students' writing skills.

Work Requirements

Midterm and Final Exam

The central task of each exam will be to write two essays about the novels that we have been studying during the semester. Students are allowed to consult the texts in order to look up quotations to support their arguments, but no other notes are permitted.

Class Participation

Participation in discussions and regular attendance will be major factors in deciding the grade for class participation. Completion of in-class and homework assignments will also count toward this grade.

Prep Sheets

As you are doing the reading for each week, I want you to write down notes and ideas about what you are reading that you can share with the class. There is no formal structure to what must be included in these notes, with one exception: I want you to pick out three passages that you think should be discussed in class and explain briefly why. Prep sheets **MUST** be completed before you come to class – no filling these out during class time!

Grading

40% Midterm Exam

40% Final Exam

10% Participation

10% Prep Sheets

Note: Grades are not rounded up to the next percentage point.

Attendance Policy

I will take attendance each week. Regular attendance and the completion of assignments, homework and other tasks are crucial to your success in this course. I do not distinguish

between excused and unexcused absences. Please note that regular attendance is factored into your overall grade (as well as under Class Participation). The number of absences you have will put a cap on your maximum letter grade for the course as a whole. If you miss more than two weeks of class (that is, more than four absences) you may fail the course, unless there are strong mitigating circumstances. If you turn up to class unprepared, I reserve the right to count you as absent. Repeatedly being late to class may result in disciplinary action, such as lateness being counted into the absence total. Each absence will result in an automatic deduction of 1 point from the Class Participation grade.

If you are having problems attending the course or completing the work, whether because of health, personal issues or anything else, please let me know **IMMEDIATELY** so that steps can be taken to help you out. My contact details are printed on the front of the syllabus.

Classroom Etiquette

The following rules for classroom etiquette are to be followed:

- use of electronic devices in class for non-academic purposes is not allowed
- you are considered late if you arrive after attendance has been called
- if you turn up to class more than ten minutes late, you will be marked as absent
- only one person at a time may leave to go to the bathroom
- bathroom breaks should be no longer than five minutes

Failure to follow these rules will result in a deduction of points from the student's participation grade.

Academic Dishonesty

No forms of cheating (plagiarism, copying, etc.) will be tolerated. The work you do for this course should be entirely your own. The punishment for cheating is automatic failure for the assignment.

General Comments

Finally, make the best possible use you can of your instructor. If you need help with any aspect of the course, please make an appointment to see me.

Schedule

Folly and Madness

Week 1 – Week beginning September 1st

What is Romanticism? (Tu)
Poe – “The Tell-Tale Heart” (1843) (Th)

Week 2 – Week beginning September 8th

TUESDAY: NO CLASS (Chuseok)
Irving – “Rip Van Winkle” (1819) (Th)

Week 3 – Week beginning September 15th

Balzac – “The Elixir of Life” (1830) (Tu)
Gogol – “Memoirs of a Madman (1835) (Th)

Week 4 – Week beginning September 22nd

Hawthorne – “Dr. Heidegger’s Experiment” (1837) (Tu)
Poe – “The Fall of the House of Usher” (1839) (Th)

Religion and Superstition

Week 5 – Week beginning September 29th

Kleist – “Saint Cecilia, or The Power of Music” (1810) (Tu)
Balzac – “A Passion in the Desert” (1830) (Th)

Week 6 – Week beginning October 6th

Hawthorne – “Young Goodman Brown” (1835) (Tu)
THURSDAY: NO CLASS (Hangeul Proclamation Day)

Week 7 – Week beginning October 13th

Hawthorne – “The Minister’s Black Veil” (1836) (Tu)
Balzac – The Atheist’s Mass (1830) (Th)

Week 8 – Week beginning October 20th

MIDTERM EXAM

Twisted Love

Week 9 – Week beginning October 27th

Hoffmann – “The Sand-Man” (1817) (Tu)
Balzac – “Sarrasine (Part 1)” (1830) (Th)

Week 10 – Week beginning November 3rd

Balzac – “Sarrasine (Part 2)” (1830) (Tu)
Gautier – “Clarimonde” (1836) (Th)

Week 11 – Week beginning November 10th

Poe – “Morella” (1835) (Tu)
Poe – “The Oval Portrait” (1842) (Th)

Week 12 – Week beginning November 17th

Hawthorne – “The Birthmark” (1843) (Tu)
Hawthorne – “Rappaccini’s Daughter” (1844) (Th)

Vengeance

Week 13 – Week beginning November 24th

Irving – “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow” (1819) (Tu)
Irving – “The Spectre Bridegroom” (1819) (Th)

Week 14 – Week beginning December 1st

Balzac – “El Verdugo” (1830) (Tu)
Pushkin – “The Shot” (1831) (Th)

Week 15 – Week beginning December 8th

Pushkin – “The Queen of Spades” (1833) (Tu)
Poe – “William Wilson” (1839) (Th)

Week 16 – Week beginning December 15th

FINAL EXAM