

E20B POETRY II: Romantics and Victorians

- Lecturer:** Dr. Richard Clarke
- Prerequisite:** A pass in E10A. A pass in E20A would be welcome but is not mandatory.
- Contact hours:** One 1-hour lecture and one 2-hour seminar per week

This course seeks to introduce students to a wide range of canonical English poetry (our focus for the most part will be on lyric poetry) written during the so-called Romantic (c.1789 to c.1830) and Victorian (c.1830 to c.1890) periods of English literary history. We will devote the first week of regular classes (week 2) to a consideration of the two main theoretical approaches to criticism which I will draw upon in this course and with which I will ask students to familiarise themselves: New Criticism and Marxism. Students will be encouraged in the weeks that follow to use these approaches to perform close textual analyses of the poems in question and to familiarise themselves with the technical characteristics of the various poetic genres encountered (New Criticism) as well as to situate the poetry studied in relation to the lives of the poets involved and, by extension, the socio-historical context of eighteenth and nineteenth century England in which it was produced (Marxism). During the first lecture and tutorial, I will also engage with various definitions offered by critics of the philosophical and literary phenomenon called Romanticism and will try to convey some sense of the socio-historical context in which it emerged and eventually blossomed.

In the weeks that follow, we will undertake an in-depth examination of the poetry five of the most important Romantic poets William Blake, William Wordsworth, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Percy Bysshe Shelley, and John Keats. We will then turn our attention to four of the most important Victorian poets Alfred Lord Tennyson, Robert Browning, Gerard Manley Hopkins and Thomas Hardy. We will also take into consideration how the Romantics and their Victorian successors viewed their own poetry by examining in close detail such seminal statements as Wordsworth's Preface to Lyrical Ballads or Matthew Arnold's The Study of Poetry. A recurrent theme which this course will explore is the autobiographical nature of lyric poetry.

Required texts: The Norton Anthology of Poetry (NAP)

Assessment:	Tutorial participation and presentation(s)	-	10%
	One term paper (2,000 - 3,000 words)	-	30%
	Final exam	-	60%

NB: Students are forewarned that a) **essays must be written according to the guidelines set out in the MLA Handbook**: SLOPPY WORK WILL BE

PENALISED; b) departmental regulations decree that even if students go into the exam with a passing coursework grade, **students must pass at least one question in the exam in order to pass the course.**

Week 2: Introduction

Topics: Theoretical approaches to literature: 1) New Criticism 2) Marxism
The Romantic period: the socio-historical context
Lyric poetry and Autobiography: using words to express the self

Weeks 3 - 8: Romanticism

Week 3: William Blake

Weeks 4 - 5: William Wordsworth

Week 6: Samuel Taylor Coleridge

Week 7: Percy Bysshe Shelley

Week 8: John Keats

Weeks 9 -13: the Victorian Period

Week 9: Alfred Lord Tennyson

Week 10: Robert Browning

Week 11: Gerard Manley Hopkins

Week 12: Thomas Hardy

Precise details concerning the required, recommended and secondary readings as well as Lecture topics and Tutorial assignments to be provided.

Texts on Reserve in the Library

Primary Sources:

Anthologies:

Allison, et al., eds.	<u>The Norton Anthology of Poetry</u>
David Perkins, ed.	<u>English Romantic Writers</u>
E.K. Brown, et al., eds.	<u>Victorian Poetry</u>
William E. Buckler, ed.	<u>The Major Victorian Poets: Tennyson, Browning, Arnold</u>

Individual Poets:

William Blake	<u>The Poetical Works of William Blake</u>
Robert Browning	<u>Poetical Works 1833-1864</u>
S. T. Coleridge	<u>The Poems of Samuel Taylor Coleridge</u>
Thomas Hardy	<u>Collected Poems of Thomas Hardy</u>
G. M. Hopkins	<u>Poems of Gerard Manley Hopkins</u>
John Keats	<u>The Poetical Works of John Keats</u>
P. B. Shelley	<u>The Complete Poetical Works of Percy Bysshe Shelley</u>
Alfred, Lord Tennyson	<u>The Poems of Tennyson</u>
William Wordsworth	<u>William Wordsworth</u>

Romantic and Victorian Literary Theory:

Charles Kaplan, ed.	<u>Criticism: the Major Statements</u>
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Secondary Sources:

General

Bach, et al.	<u>The Liberating Form</u>
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General Introductions

J.R. Watson	<u>English Poetry of the Romantic Period, 1789-1830</u>
Bernard Richards	<u>English Poetry of the Victorian Period, 1830-90 (on order)</u>

General Critical Anthologies:

M.H. Abrams, ed.	<u>English Romantic Poets</u>
F.W. Hilles, ed.	<u>From Sensibility to Romanticism</u>
Shiv Kumar, ed.	<u>British Romantic Poets</u>
C. Thorpe, ed.	<u>The Major English Romantic Poets</u>
Robert Gleckner, et al., eds.	<u>Romanticism: Points of View</u>
I. Armstrong, ed.	<u>The Major Victorian Poets</u>

Critical Anthologies on Individual Poets:

Margaret Bottrall, ed.	<u>Songs of Innocence and Experience (Casebook Series)</u>
Morton Paley, ed.	<u>Twentieth Twentieth Cent Twentieth Century Interpretations of Songs of Twentieth Century Experience</u>
Harold Bloom, et al., eds.	<u>Twentieth Century Interpretations of Robert Browning</u>
J. R. Watson, ed.	<u>Men and Women and Other Poems (Casebook Series)</u>
Alun Jones, at., eds.	<u>The Ancient Mariner and Other Poems (Casebook Series)</u>
James Gibson, et al., eds.	<u>Thomas Hardy: Poems</u>
Margaret Bottrall, ed.	<u>Gerard Maley Hopkins: Poems (Casebook Series)</u>

John Mill, ed.	<u>Keats: Narrative Poems</u> (Casebook Series)
G. S. Fraser, ed.	<u>John Keats: Odes</u> (Casebook Series)
Robert Woodings, ed.	<u>Shelley: Modern Judgements</u>
Michael O Neill, ed.	<u>Shelley</u>
John Hunt, ed.	<u>Tennyson: In Memoriam</u> (Casebook Series)
Raymond Cowell, ed.	<u>Critics on Wordsworth</u>
W. J. Harvey, et al., eds.	<u>Wordsworth: The Prelude</u> (Casebook Series)
Alun Jones, et al., eds.	<u>Wordsworth: Lyrical Ballads</u> (Casebook Series)
<i>Romantic and Victorian Literary Theory:</i>	
John Spencer Hill, ed.	<u>The Romantic Imagination</u>
M.H. Abrams	<u>The Mirror and the Lamp</u>