

- Faculté des lettres et sciences humaines
- www.unine.ch/lettres

Sém. I.II./TC: British Literature and the French Revolution (2AN2001)

Filières concernées	Nombre d'heures	Validation	Crédits ECTS
Pilier principal M A - littératures	Séminaire: 2 ph	Voir ci-dessous	5
Pilier secondaire M A - littératures	Séminaire: 2 ph	Voir ci-dessous	5

ph=période hebdomadaire, pg=période globale, j=jour, dj=demi-jour, h=heure, min=minute

Période d'enseignement:

- Semestre Printemps

Equipe enseignante

Patrick Vincent

Contenu

In Book XII of his autobiographical epic, *The Prelude*, William Wordsworth expresses his enthusiasm for the events that were taking place around him in France: 'Bliss was it in that dawn to be alive, / But to be young was very Heaven!' The early period of the French Revolution elicited millennial hopes of reform among Britain's liberals and radicals, hopes that largely faded as the decade ran its bloody course and the Republic was transformed into a military empire. These political events, together with the intellectual controversy and repression that it triggered across the Channel, gave rise to what William Hazlitt has called 'the Spirit of the Age'. It was an age marked by a new, democratic awareness of social injustice and of human rights, by an acute historical self-consciousness, or what has come to be labelled 'historicism', and a new impetus in literature, Romanticism. Drawing on a historicist approach to literary texts, this course will introduce students to the aesthetic discourses used to represent the Revolution, among them Gothicism, sentimentalism, the Sublime and the Beautiful, and comic realism, then analyse these discourses in various genres, including political letters and pamphlets, prose fiction, and poetry. Many of the themes we will explore intersect with contemporary issues of gender equality, social justice, and political representation, reminding us, as some have recently suggested, that the French Revolution is still not over.

Forme de l'évaluation

Regular participation, 15-minute oral presentation of a secondary article, 12-15 page essay (in English, eventually in French for students not specializing in English literature).

Documentation

Horace Walpole, *The Castle of Otranto* (1764) (12 at institute)
 William Godwin, *Caleb Williams* (1794) (9 at institute)
 Mary Wollstonecraft, *Maria or the Wrongs of Women* (1798) (Oxford World Classics)
 Jane Austen, *Northanger Abbey* (1803) (3 at institute)
 All other texts will be made available on the Moodle course platform

Forme de l'enseignement

seminar (participation is required)

URLs	1) https://moodle.unine.ch/course/view.php?id=5834
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