

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

Seminar 4: Modern and Contemporary Literature : British Romanticism (2AN1420)

Filières concernées	Nombre d'heures	Validation	Crédits ECTS
Pilier principal B A - langue et littérature anglaises	Séminaire: 2 ph	cont. continu	5
Pilier secondaire B A - langue et littérature anglaises	Séminaire: 2 ph	cont. continu	5

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

Période d'enseignement:

- Semestre Automne

Equipe enseignante:

Prof. Patrick Vincent

Objectifs:

The aims of this course are the following:

- To develop students' close reading skills, learned in the first-year Introduction to Literature course.
- To pursue in more depth a specific genre, period, or theme in modern literary history
- To improve expository and critical writing skills, notably through class participation and through reader-response papers
- To improve research-paper writing skills, notably by preparing an oral presentation based on a critical article, and by learning how to integrate secondary criticism into a longer essay

Contenu:

Romanticism is commonly understood either as an aesthetic movement, or as cultural period during which the self, the imagination and emotion were given a new primacy. This revolutionary emphasis on subjectivity was articulated in various ways: through extreme sensibility and / or a return to nature; through the attribution of a voice to traditionally ignored or unnoticed populations (whether children, rural vagrants or even supernatural beings); through confession, life-writing and autobiography; through improvisation and the performance of dramatic selves; through the exploration of the unconscious and experiments with drugs. Romanticism coincides with, and largely resists what it sees as overly reductive definitions of the subject, determined by liberalism and capitalism in politics, utilitarianism in moral theory and empiricism in science. This seminar will focus on British Romantic-period texts, which take the social and political situation in England as their subject, and analyse social divisions geographically and thematically through what Raymond Williams has famously labelled 'the country and city.' Starting with the eighteenth-century debate on virtue versus commerce, we will explore some of the reasons why country life came to be imagined as quintessentially 'English.' We will also look at texts that describe the metropolitan lives both of the rich and the poor. The study trip to Manchester and the Lake District will allow students to get a better sense of England's often-stark geographical, social, and cultural contrasts.

Forme de l'évaluation:

Ev. Interne : trip journal (10%); in-class oral presentation on a critical article (10%) ; one essay (6-8 double-spaced pages) (80%).

Note: Failure to hand in a written assignment in the accorded time, without an accepted reason, will automatically result in a failing grade.

Documentation:

Jane Austen, Persuasion (any edition)

Other texts available in The Norton Anthology of British Literature, volume 2, or on Claroline.

Pré-requis:

First-year courses (PP1-PP3) are required; « Modern and Contemporary Literature » lecture is recommended.

Participation in the study trip to Manchester and the Lake District (12-16 October 2016) : registration is unfortunately already closed.

Forme de l'enseignement:

Seminar (participation is required)

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