

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

Sém. Ang. I/TC: Irish and Scottish Romanticism (2AN2075)

Filières concernées	Nombre d'heures	Validation	Crédits ECTS
Pilier principal M A - littératures	Séminaire: 2 ph	cont. continu	5
Pilier secondaire M A - littératures	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 Printemps

Equipe enseignante:

Prof. Patrick Vincent

Objectifs:

The aims of this course are the following:

- To pursue in more depth the study of a literary period within a specific national context
- To develop students' close reading skills
- To learn how to combine those skills with literary criticism in order to better appreciate and analyze a text
- To improve research-paper writing skills, notably by preparing an oral presentation based on secondary criticism, and by learning how to integrate primary texts and secondary criticism into a longer essay
- To generate ideas in view of preparing a mémoire project

Contenu:

This course will address Romantic-period literature written and set in Ireland and Scotland as a way of developing a broader understanding of what Murray Pittock calls "British Isles Romanticisms". The relation of literature to the development of Britain's four nations has long interested historians and literary critics, notably because of its importance in fostering distinct national cultures (e.g. Scott's historical novels and Scotland). The Acts of Union between Great Britain, Scotland (1707) and Ireland (1800) consolidated English political and cultural hegemony, but they also increased the English reading public's interest in these relatively little known outlying territories, fostering travel, antiquarian, and folk literatures both real and invented (e.g. Ossian). At the same time, Edinburgh and Glasgow became leading Enlightenment centers, promoting the principle of stadial history, which gave a newfound importance to primitive societies, and notably to the study of Gaelic as a language and culture. These developments in turn played a significant role in shaping European Romanticism, with its emphasis on historical relativism and its fetishizing of the past, the local, and the popular. Genres we will read in the seminar include the ballad, the travelogue, the historical novel, and the national tale. Some questions we will address include: Do these texts correspond to traditional definitions of Romanticism that emphasize visionary imagination, and if not, should they be labelled as Romantic? How can we distinguish between history and fiction? What audiences are these texts addressed to (English, Anglo Irish, Lowland Scot, etc.), and what cultural politics do they advocate? How do they represent the English colonizer as opposed to the Irish or Scottish native? What is the function ascribed to religion? What relations can we trace between language, national identity, and gender in these works?

Forme de l'évaluation:

One in-class presentation of a text (10%), one longer critical essay (12-15 pages) (90%)

Documentation:

Maria Edgeworth, *Castle Rackrent* (1800)
 Sydney Owenson, *Lady Morgan, The Wild Irish Girl: A National Tale* (1806)
 Walter Scott, *Waverley* (1814)
 James Hogg, *The Private Memoirs and Confessions of a Justified Sinner* (1824)

All other reading, including poetry and criticism, will be placed on Doodle

Pré-requis:

None

Forme de l'enseignement:

Seminar, possible field trip to Edinburgh

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