

## Romanticism, Feminism, Revolution

### Subject description:

This subject maps the intertwined (and sometimes antagonistic) trajectories of Romanticism and early Feminism, as they emerge in Britain in the wake of the American and French Revolutions. Drawing on prose, poetry and drama from this period (including texts by Byron, Blake, Godwin, Hays, Radcliffe, Robinson, Mary Shelley, P. B. Shelley and Wordsworth), it studies the construction of modern notions of literature, culture, sexuality, emancipation and revolution. In so doing, the subject brings into dialogue late 18th and early 19th century philosophies of imagination and reason, accounts of the artist as Satan/Prometheus and Sappho, and myths of the lover as Don Juan and *femme fatale*. Students completing this subject should have a firm understanding of the literary, philosophical and cultural foundations of Romanticism and early Feminism, movements that have played key roles in the construction of the modern world.

### Required subject materials:

Subject Reader

*The Norton Anthology of English Literature, Vol. D, The Romantic Period*, (Jack Stillinger and Deirdre Lynch eds). 8th ed.

*Romance of the Forest* (Ann Radcliffe), Oxford Worlds Classics

*Vindication of the Rights of Woman* (Mary Wollstonecraft), Penguin

*Caleb Williams* (William Godwin), Oxford Worlds Classics

*Memoirs of Emma Courtney* (Mary Hays), Oxford Worlds Classics

*The Last Man* (Mary Shelley), Oxford Worlds Classics

*Wuthering Heights* (Emily Brontë), Oxford Worlds Classics

### Recommended Texts:

*Cambridge Companion to British Literature of the French Revolution*, ed. Pamela Clemit (Cambridge UP)

*Selected Poems* (Mary Robinson), Broadview Press

Note: Any good edition of any of the above texts is acceptable, especially Penguin, Oxford, Norton, and Cambridge editions. (A “good” edition will have been published in the last 10 years, contain footnotes, bibliography, and a literary critical introduction.) If you have any doubts, talk to your tutor about your editions.

## R/F/R 2012 Lecture and tutorial plan (reading schedule)

Week 1	Introduction: Romanticism, Feminism, Revolution Abrams, M. H. “English Romanticism and the Spirit of the Age” (R) Mellor, Anne K. “Feminism” (R) Norton Anthology “The Revolution Controversy and the Spirit of the Age” (N)
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- Week 2 Mary Wollstonecraft  
*A Vindication of the Rights of Women*  
Taylor, Barbara. *Mary Wollstonecraft and the feminist imagination* (R)
- Week 3 William Blake  
"Visions of the Daughters of Albion" (N)  
"The Marriage of Heaven and Hell" (N)  
Hilton, Nelson. "An Original Story" (R)  
Miller, Dan. "Contrary Revelation: *Marriage of Heaven and Hell*" (R)
- Week 4 Mary Robinson (Mary Stone for Research Lecture)  
"Sappho and Pheon" (selection from Broadview)  
McGann, Jerome. "Mary Robinson and the Myth of Sappho" (R)  
Reynolds, Margaret. "Mary Robinson's Attitudes." (R)
- Week 5 Ann Radcliffe  
*The Romance of the Forest*  
Ellis, Markman. "Female Gothic and the Secret Terrors of Sensibility" (R)
- Week 6 Mary Hays  
*Memoirs of Emma Courtney*  
Sharma, Anjana. "A Different Voice" (R)
- Week 7 William Wordsworth (**Paper due**)  
"Lines Composed a Few Miles Above Tintern Abbey" (N)  
Preface to *Lyrical Ballads* (N)  
Pellicer, Juan Christian. "How Revolutionary Was *Lyrical Ballads* (1798-1800)"(R)  
Thomson, Heidi. 'We Are Two': The Address to Dorothy in 'Tintern Abbey' (R)
- Week 8 Lord Byron (George Gordon)  
*Manfred* (N)  
Richardson, Alan. "Manfred: 'The Language of Another World.'" (R)  
Melaney, William D. "Ambiguous Difference..." (R)
- Week 9 William Godwin  
*Caleb Williams*  
Graham, Kenneth. "The Gothic Unity of Godwin's *Caleb Williams*" (R)
- Week 10 Mary Wollstonecraft Shelly  
*The Last Man* (vols. 1&2)
- Week 11 Mary Wollstonecraft Shelly  
*The Last Man* (vol. 3)  
Wagner-Lawlor, Jennifer "Performing History, Performing Humanity" (R)
- Week 12 Emily Brontë  
*Wuthering Heights*  
Nussbaum, Martha. "*Wuthering Heights*: the Romantic Assent" (R)

(N)-Norton Anthology (R)-Course Reader