GU (W) 4021
The Age of Romanticism Across the Adriatic

Instructor: Konstantina Zanou
Spring 2018- Seminar
Tuesday, 6:10-8 pm, Hamilton 309
Office hours: Tuesday 8-9 pm and on appointment, Hamilton 513

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This interdisciplinary seminar will study Romanticism as a literary trend, as much as a historical phenomenon and a life attitude. Romanticism is viewed here as the sum of the different answers to the sense of insecurity, social alienation and loneliness, provoked by the changing and frail world of the end of the eighteenth and the beginning of the nineteenth century. We will investigate the Romantic ideology in relation to the trans-Adriatic world of Italy and Greece, an area that entered modernity with the particular lure and burden of antiquity, as well as through revolutionary upheaval. Students will be invited to read authors like Vittorio Alfieri, Ugo Foscolo, Silvio Pellico, Giacomo Leopardi, Alessandro Manzoni, Massimo d’Azeglio, and to reflect on themes such as Nostalgia and Nationalism, the Discovery of the Middle Ages, the Historical Novel, the Invention of Popular Tradition, the Fragmented Self, Autobiographical and Travel Writing, the Brigand Cult, Hellenism, Philhellenism, Orientalism and Balkanism, and others.
READINGS:

- Most readings will be available on Courseworks or in Butler online. However, the few readings that will not be there, you need to find them either in Butler library, or through BorrowDirect, or to purchase them. More specifically, you need to look EARLY ENOUGH for the following books (indicated in red letters also in your weekly syllabus):
  

- Make sure to come to class with a hard or electronic copy of all the assigned readings.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

**Attendance.** You are expected to attend *every* class meeting and to arrive on time. In the event that you must miss a class due to religious observance, illness, or a family emergency, please notify me in advance (whenever possible). Unexcused absences will adversely affect your grade.

*Attendance includes your presence in at least three of the events of ‘The Italian and Mediterranean Colloquium’*

**Class Participation.** This is a discussion-driven course. You are required to come to each session prepared to talk about and analyze the weekly readings.

**Class Conduct.** I expect that you will treat your peers and their ideas with consideration and respect. That means, among other things, that your cell phones must be turned off or silenced (no sounds or vibration) and put away for the duration of the seminar. You can use a laptop or tablet *only* for note-taking purposes.

**Method of Evaluation.** Aside from your attendance and participation, there are three other factors of assessment:

1. **Class presentations:** Every week *one or two students* will help lead discussion by giving a short, 20-minute presentation of one or more of the assigned readings. These
presentations will be evaluated on their performance, organization and concision, as well as on how well they draw out issues and themes for class discussion.

2. **Weekly written responses**: Every week all students (except those presenting in class) will be writing 1 page double-spaced papers, intended as informal (though always well-written!) responses to the weekly readings. These responses should reflect your comments, questions and/or thoughts about all readings of the week (you can focus on one or more subjects, but this/these should be seen through all readings). These papers are due by **9am on Tuesday** and should be sent by email attachment to the whole class (in .doc, .docx or .pdf format).

3. **Final paper**: One final paper (14-16 double-spaced pages for undergraduates; 18-20 double-spaced pages for graduate students – bibliography included). This will be an assessment of a specific subject or a question among (or inspired by) those we will be treating in class. Students are expected to consult with me on the topic and scope of their essays and discuss departing points and further readings. They should present a draft of their final paper in the last class and receive comments and feedback by their instructor and classmates. The final paper is due by **May 8** (if you are a graduating student) or **May 11** (if you are a non-graduating student). They should be sent to me by email attachment in .doc, .docx or .pdf format.

**Grading.**

Class participation (including attendance and active presence in class discussions): 30%

Class presentation & weekly written responses: 30%

Final paper (including the presentation of its draft in class): 40%

* Be punctual in turning in your weekly responses and final paper. I do not accept late papers, except for reasons of illness or personal or family crisis.

**DISABILITIES:**

If you are a student with a disability and have an DS-certified ‘Accommodation Letter’ please come to my office hours to confirm your accommodation needs. If you believe that you might have a disability that requires accommodation, you should contact Disability Services at 212-854-2388 and disability@columbia.edu.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:**

The intellectual venture in which we are all engaged requires of faculty and students alike the highest level of personal and academic integrity. As members of an academic community, each one of us bears the responsibility to participate in scholarly discourse and research in a manner characterized by intellectual honesty and scholarly integrity.
Scholarship, by its very nature, is an iterative process, with ideas and insights building one upon the other. Collaborative scholarship requires the study of other scholars' work, the free discussion of such work, and the explicit acknowledgement of those ideas in any work that inform our own. This exchange of ideas relies upon a mutual trust that sources, opinions, facts, and insights will be properly noted and carefully credited.

In practical terms, this means that, as students, you must be responsible for the full citations of others' ideas in all of your research papers and projects; you must be scrupulously honest when taking your examinations; you must always submit your own work and not that of another student, scholar, or internet agent.

Any breach of this intellectual responsibility is a breach of faith with the rest of our academic community. It undermines our shared intellectual culture, and it cannot be tolerated. Students failing to meet these responsibilities should anticipate being asked to leave Columbia.

For more information on academic integrity at Columbia, students may refer to the Columbia University Undergraduate Guide to Academic Integrity: http://www.college.columbia.edu/academics/academicintegrity

WEEKLY SYLLABUS

Week 1: Jan 16  What is Romanticism?

Week 2: Jan 23  The Nostalgic Romance of Nationalism

**Week 3: Jan 30**  
**The Discovery of the Middle Ages**


**Week 4: Feb 6**  
**The Italian Historical Novel**

[Italian readers should read this text in the original]


**Week 5: Feb 13**  
**The Fragmented Self**


Week 6: Feb 20  
*The emergence of the Coherent Self: Autobiographical Writing*


Week 7: Feb 27  
*Martyrs, Exiles and Sufferers*


Week 8: March 6  
*A Classicist Romantic: Giacomo Leopardi*

Week 9: March 20  
**The Invention of Popular Tradition**


Week 10: March 27  
**The Romantic Brigand Cult**


Week 11: April 3  
**Romantic Hellenism and Philhellenism**


Week 12: April 10  
**British Romantics in Italy and Greece**

- Paul Douglass, ‘Picturing Byron’s Italy and Italians: Finden’s Illustrations to Byron’s Life and Works’, in Frederick Burwick and Paul Douglass (eds), *Dante and Italy in British Romanticism*, New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2016, pp. 63-75.


**Week 13: April 17**  
**Travel Writing, Orientalism and Balkanism**


**Week 14: April 24**  
**Presentation of Students’ Final Paper drafts**

**Final Paper due:** May 8 (for graduating students)  
May 11 (for non-graduating students)