ENG. GA. 2620  
ROMANTIC MOVEMENT  
PROFESSOR LOCKRIDGE

William Blake, William Wordsworth, Dorothy Wordsworth, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Lord Byron, Percy Shelley, Mary Shelley, and John Keats are the canonical writers considered in the seminar. If they choose, participants may work off-syllabus, writing their term essays on one or another writer of the Romantic era. A list of forty-five such writers will be circulated at the first seminar meeting. This is, in other respects, not a course that challenges the canon but that addresses itself to issues that remain timely with respect to the familiar eight.

Among the topics to be discussed: Blake’s revolutionary satire and mythology; the literary relationship of William Wordsworth, Dorothy Wordsworth, and Coleridge; Romantic autobiography; Coleridge as philosopher of literature; Lord Byron as performance artist; Mary Shelley’s questioning of Romantic ideology; Percy Shelley and critical ethics; Keats and cultural poetics; formal innovation in Romantic narrative and lyric; and representations of gender, class, and race.

Prominent schools in modern theory and criticism from archetypal, psychoanalytic, and ethical to feminist, historicist, and deconstructionist have found in Romantic writers a literature of great import. We debate a variety of such approaches. Participants are encouraged to pursue their own critical interests.

Representative texts: Blake’s Songs, The Marriage of Heaven and Hell, Visions of the Daughters of Albion, America a Prophecy, and Milton; Wordsworth and Coleridge’s Lyrical Ballads, W. Wordsworth’s The Prelude; D. Wordworth’s Journals and selected poems; Coleridge’s Biographia Literaria, the conversation and mystery poems; Byron’s Childe Harold’s Pilgrimage and Don Juan; Percy Shelley’s Alastor, Prometheus Unbound and The Cenci; Mary Shelley’s Frankenstein; Keats’s Odes and The Fall of Hyperion.

Depending on enrollment, participants will write three response papers (four to five pages each) and make presentations to the seminar on topics assigned in advance, and a term essay of about fifteen pages on a topic of their choosing.