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English 7276/8276: The Romantic Period
Spring 2019

An alternative title for this course, which will cover the high points of British literature from approximately 1760-1840, might be *Mysticism and Fantasy in the Romantic Age*. We will study poets William Blake, William Wordsworth, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Percy Bysshe Shelley, Lord Byron, and John Keats as well as novelists Jane Austen, Horace Walpole, William Beckford, James Hogg, Mary Shelley, and Emily Bronte, and several prose writers, including Thomas De Quincey. The emphasis will be on the wayward, wandering, dream-like, sometimes drug-induced, and religiously and psychologically profound aspects of Romanticism, which resulted in the writing of some of the greatest mystical and fantasy literature of all time. A skeptical, balanced, and satirical view will be provided by the reading of Jane Austen's *Northanger Abbey*, which parodies some of these tendencies. Students will become adept in formal analysis, including scansion, as well as in the intellectual themes of the period—including the Sublime, the Byronic Hero, and the Imagination—and their implications for the future.

Texts:

The Norton Anthology of English Literature, Vol. D: The Romantic Period. 9th edition.
978-0-393-91252-4

Three Gothic Novels: The Castle of Otranto, Vathek, Frankenstein. Penguin.
978-0-14-043036-3

Austen, Jane. *Northanger Abbey*. Norton Critical Editions. 978-0393978506

Bronte, Emily. *Wuthering Heights*. Norton Critical Editions. 0-393-95760-8

Hogg, James. *The Private Memoirs and Confessions of a Justified Sinner*. Oxford
World's Classics. 0-19-281556-3

Shelley, Mary. *Frankenstein: The Graphic Novel*. Classical Comics.
978-1-906332-49-5

Course work will include at least two seminar reports, a final, a syllabus for a course in Romanticism, and a course project of approximately 3500-4000 words (around 15 double-spaced pages).

