

Preliminary Web Course Description

*Please note: This is a preliminary web course description only. The department reserves the right to change without notice any information in this description. The final, binding course outline will be distributed in the first class of the semester.

School of English and Theatre Studies

Course Code: ENGL*4250	Course Title: 18th & 19th Century Literatures	Date of Offering: FALL 2016
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Course Instructor: D. O'Quinn	Course Format: Seminar
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Brief Course Synopsis:

This capstone seminar will plunge students into an intensive study of representative novels by three prominent women writers from the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Most of the course will be devoted to three or four novels by Jane Austen and we will be taking full account of the recent efflorescence in Austen scholarship. In many ways the scholarship on Austen can act as a window on recent developments in literary studies itself, thus the course will act as a summary of much of what students have been doing at the undergraduate level. We will also be looking at some adaptations of Austen's work because important contributions to the scholarly archive have focussed on Austen's "afterlife". The course will likely be framed by readings of Frances Burney's *Evelina* and Maria Edgworth's *Belinda*.

Methods of Evaluation and Weight:

Seminar Assignments

1. Close Reading 20%
In week three I will be asking you to write a 500 word close reading of a passage from one of Austen's novels
2. Article Analysis 20%
In week six you will be assigned a 500 word article analysis that will be due the following class. The essay assigned will hopefully be directly connected to your research project.

Independent Research Project

1. Project Proposal 10%
In week 5 I will be asking for a 250 word proposal for a major research project. The project could choose to focus on a particular problem in Austen criticism poetics or on the complex problem of doing literary history in the contemporary moment or it could choose to focus on a particular novel or its adaptation. Whatever the project I want you to clearly articulate the extent of the archive you are consulting and the critical problem you seek to address.
2. Prospectus/Bibliography 20%
After your proposal has been accepted I want you to develop a paragraph by paragraph account of your argument. In other words, I am looking for a detailed outline of the paper you are going to write. The prospectus should be detailed enough to show when and how close readings will enter your argument. It should also give a sense of how secondary critical material will enter your argument. With this in mind, the prospectus should be accompanied by a select annotated bibliography. This will be due at the end of Week 9.

3. Final Paper

30%

Using your prospectus as a guide, you will be asked to write a 15 page research paper that takes into account the suggestions made during the process of writing. Due Friday of Week 12.

Texts and/or Resources Required (e.g. Internet access, specific textbook title, lab kit, etc.)

Frances Burney, Evelina

Jane Austen, Pride and Prejudice

Jane Austen, Mansfield Park

Jane Austen, Emma

Jane Austen, Persuasion

Maria Edgeworth, Belinda

Other information that you wish share about the course (optional):

The formal written work in this course involves an independent research project that will ask them to integrate the formal, historical and theoretical knowledge necessary to fully engage with these texts.

List the distribution requirements that this course fulfills: 4th year capstone seminar that also fulfills 18th/19th c. requirement