

Asst Professor Katherine Wakely-Mulroney  
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Tuesdays, 13:30-15:20  
LT28

HL2004 S1 AY2025-2026

# Sensibility & Romanticism



## DESCRIPTION

The Age of Sensibility and Romanticism witnessed a surge of interest in emotion, imagination, and subjectivity. These inward explorations coincided with political, cultural, and philosophical debates that reconfigured public life and continue to shape modern sensibilities. Taking taxonomy as an overall theme, this course begins by delineating approaches to perception, reading, and feeling that emerged during the long eighteenth century. Following this, we will examine major works by William Wordsworth and Jane Austen before embarking on a series of thematic lectures on the city, childhood, and the pleasures and pains of opium. This course explores a variety of primary source material to reflect the diversity of print culture between 1740 and 1820. Poetry, fiction, and essays will be examined alongside pedagogical theory, discourses on elocution and aesthetics, and visual art. Throughout the course, we will consider our own experience as readers of eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century texts in relation to reading practices during the period. How did rising literacy rates and innovations in textual production and circulation influence form, genre, and taste?

## REQUIRED TEXTS

- ▶ Jane Austen, *Sense and Sensibility*. Ed. Margaret Anne Doody, Claire Lamont, and James Kingsley. Oxford World's Classics, Oxford University Press, 2008.
- ▶ All other texts will be provided in the Course Reader, accessible via NTULearn, under "Content" and available for purchase via the SOH Print Store, Level B1

## ASSESSMENTS

- ▶ Participation: 15%
- ▶ Critical Reflection: 15%
- ▶ Term Paper: 35%
- ▶ Final Test: 35%



Please refer to the Assessments Handout on NTULearn for further details concerning the assessments, including late penalties.

## AI POLICY

Please note that you are not permitted to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools on any course assessment, including but not limited to ChatGPT and editing software such as Grammarly and Quillbot. Use of AI will result in a significant grade penalty and potentially a zero for the assessment.

## SCHEDULE

### 1. JANUARY 13<sup>TH</sup> - INTRODUCTION

- ▶ Hannah More, selections from "Sensibility" (1785) [*note: More's poem will be discussed in our tutorial, so you do not need to read it in advance of the lecture*]
- ▶ William Wordsworth, "I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud" (1807)

### 2. JANUARY 20<sup>TH</sup> - WAYS OF SEEING

- ▶ Edmund Burke, selections from *A Philosophical Enquiry into the Origin of Our Ideas of the Sublime and Beautiful* (1745)
- ▶ Uvedale Price, selections from *An Essay on the Picturesque* (1796)
- ▶ Joanna Baillie, "London" (1800) [*note: Baillie's poem will be discussed in our tutorial, so you do not need to read it in advance of the lecture*]



### 3. JANUARY 27<sup>TH</sup> - WAYS OF READING

- ▶ Isaac Watts, "Of Reading, and Books," from *The Improvement of the Mind* (1741)
- ▶ Thomas Sheridan, "Gesture," from *A Course of Lectures on Elocution* (1762)
- ▶ John Keats, "On First Looking into Chapman's Homer" (1816)

### 4. FEBRUARY 3<sup>RD</sup> - WAYS OF FEELING

- ▶ Jane Austen, *Sense and Sensibility* (1811)

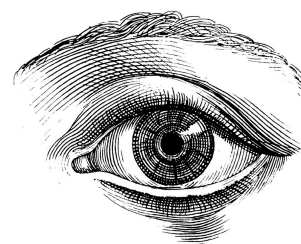
### 5. FEBRUARY 10<sup>TH</sup> - ADAPTING AUSTEN

- ▶ In-class screening of Ang Lee and Emma Thompson's *Sense and Sensibility* (1995)

### 6. FEBRUARY 17<sup>TH</sup> - CHINESE NEW YEAR (NO CLASS)

### 7. FEBRUARY 24<sup>TH</sup> - ROMANTIC STORYTELLING

- ▶ William Wordsworth, Preface to the *Lyrical Ballads* (1800), "Simon Lee," "She Dwelt Among the Untrodden Ways" (1798)



### RECESS WEEK

### 8. MARCH 10<sup>TH</sup> - SPECIAL GUEST LECTURE (CLASS ON ZOOM)

*Professor Stephanie Weiner (Wesleyan) will discuss the poetry of John Clare. We will not have our regularly scheduled lecture on this day.*

- ▶ Readings TBD



### 9. MARCH 17<sup>TH</sup>- ROMANTIC QUESTIONING

- ▶ William Wordsworth, "Anecdote for Fathers", "We are Seven" (1798), "Resolution and Independence" (1807)

### 10. MARCH 24<sup>TH</sup> - CHILDHOOD

- ▶ Samuel Taylor Coleridge, "Frost at Midnight" (1798)
- ▶ Anna Letitia Barbauld, selections from *Hymns in Prose for Children* (1781)

### 11. MARCH 31<sup>ST</sup> - INTOXICATION AND IMAGINATION

- ▶ Samuel Taylor Coleridge, "Kubla Khan" (1816)
- ▶ Thomas De Quincey, selections from *Confessions of an English Opium-Eater* (1821)

### 12. APRIL 7<sup>TH</sup> - CONCLUSION AND TEST REVIEW

- ▶ Thomas De Quincey, selections from *Confessions of an English Opium-Eater* (1821)
- ▶ Sara Coleridge, "Poppies" (1834)

### 13. APRIL 14<sup>TH</sup> - FINAL TEST (HELD IN CLASS)

