



# SENSIBILITY & ROMANTICISM

HL2004 S1 AY2017-2018

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Fridays, 3:30-5:30 p.m., HSS Auditorium  
Teaching Assistant: Kuah Ting Ting

## Description

The Age of Sensibility and Romanticism witnessed a surge of interest in emotional responsiveness, imagination, and individual subjectivity. These inward explorations coincided with a series of political, cultural, and philosophical debates that reconfigured public life and continue to shape our modern sensibilities. Among these were issues concerning sociability, the notion of childhood, the relationship between Enlightenment thought and political radicalism, the role of the creative artist, the education of women and the working classes, and the organization of knowledge. Taking taxonomy as an overall theme, this course begins by delineating approaches to perception, reading, and emotion that emerged during the long eighteenth century. Following this, we will examine seminal texts by William Wordsworth and Jane Austen before embarking on a series of thematic lectures on the city, education and children's books, and the pleasures and pains of opium. This course explores a variety of primary source material in order 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 practice during the period. How did rising literacy rates and innovations in textual production and circulation influence form, genre, and taste?

## Learning Objectives

This course aims to develop critical reading, writing, and research skills through a study of eighteenth-century and Romantic literature and culture. It offers opportunities to engage with the concepts and networks of ideas that characterize literary discourse and to formulate independent, analytical arguments.

## 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 are included in the Course Reader (available in B1 of HSS)

## Assessments

Participation: 10%  
Paper Proposal: 10%  
Term Paper: 30%  
Final Exam: 50%

## Deadlines and Late Penalties

The Paper Proposal is due on **Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup>**, and must be submitted at the beginning of class. The deadline for extension requests is Tuesday, September 26<sup>th</sup>. Late work submitted without an approved extension will be penalized one half-mark per day late – an A paper submitted one day late would drop to an A-, etc. Late work will not be accepted after Thursday, October 5<sup>th</sup>.

The Term Paper has two deadlines: students who wish to receive written feedback on their work must submit their essays on **Friday, November 10<sup>th</sup>**, at the beginning of class. Essays submitted after November 10<sup>th</sup> will receive a letter grade only. The final deadline is **Friday, November 17<sup>th</sup>**, at the beginning of class. Essays submitted after this date will receive a zero. A complete submission consists of both a hard copy and a soft copy submitted to Turnitin.



# Lecture Schedule

## 1. 18<sup>th</sup> August - Introduction

- William Wordsworth, "I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud" (1807)

## 2. 25<sup>th</sup> August - 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)

## 3. 1<sup>st</sup> September - Hari Raya Haji, NO CLASS

## 4. 8<sup>th</sup> September - Ways of Reading

- Isaac Watts, "Of Books and Reading," 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)

## 5. 15<sup>th</sup> September - Ways of Feeling

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

## 6. 22<sup>nd</sup> September - Ways of Feeling II

- Ang Lee and Emma Thompson, *Sense and Sensibility* (1995)

## 7. 29<sup>th</sup> September - Romantic Storytelling

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

## 8. 13<sup>th</sup> October - Romantic Questioning

- William Wordsworth, "Anecdote for Fathers", "Resolution and Independence" (1807)

## 9. 20<sup>th</sup> October - Urbanity

- Joanna Baillie, "London" (1800)

- Charles Lamb, "The Londoner" (1802)

- William Hazlitt, "On Londoners and Country People" (1823)

## 10. 27<sup>th</sup> October - Constructing Childhood

- William Blake, "The Lamb", "A Cradle Song" (1789)

- Anna Laetitia Barbauld, "What is Education?" (1798)

- Samuel Taylor Coleridge, "Frost at Midnight" (1798)

## 11. 3<sup>rd</sup> November - Writing for Children

- Anon., selections from *A Little Pretty Pocket-Book* (1787)

- Anna Laetitia Barbauld, selections from *Hymns in Prose for Children* (1781)

- William Roscoe, *The Butterfly's Ball and the Grasshopper's Feast* (1805)

## 12. 10<sup>th</sup> November - Intoxication and Imagination

- Samuel Taylor Coleridge, "Kubla Khan" (1816)

- Thomas De Quincey, selections from *Confessions of an English Opium-Eater* (1821)

## 13. 17<sup>th</sup> November - Conclusion and Exam Review

