

Asst Professor Katherine Wakely-Mulroney  
kmulroney@ntu.edu.sg

Online Lectures via NTULearn  
Wednesdays, 10:30-12:30

HL2004 S1 AY2021-2022

# 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 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?

## 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: 10%
- ▶ Paper Proposal 10%
- ▶ Term Paper: 30%
- ▶ Final Exam: 50%



Please refer to the Assessments Handout on NTULearn for further details concerning the assessments.

## DEADLINES AND LATE PENALTIES

Please review the Assessments handout on NTULearn, which includes information concerning the deadlines and expectations for each assignment. Late assignments will be penalised one half-mark per day late (an A paper submitted one day late would drop to an A-, etc.) and will not receive written feedback. Late work will only be accepted within 48 hours of the deadline.

## SCHEDULE

### 1. AUGUST 11<sup>TH</sup> - INTRODUCTION

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

### 2. AUGUST 18<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)

### 3. AUGUST 25<sup>TH</sup> - 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)

### 4. SEPTEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup> - WAYS OF FEELING

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

### 5. SEPTEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup> - ADAPTING AUSTEN

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

### 6. SEPTEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup> - ROMANTIC STORYTELLING

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

### 7. SEPTEMBER 22<sup>ND</sup>- ROMANTIC QUESTIONING

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

### 8. OCTOBER 6<sup>TH</sup> - URBANITY

- ▶ Joanna Baillie, “London” (1800)
- ▶ Charles Lamb, “The Londoner” (1802)
- ▶ William Hazlitt, “On Londoners and Country People” (1823)

### 9. OCTOBER 13<sup>TH</sup> - CONSTRUCTING CHILDHOOD

- ▶ William Blake, “A Cradle Song” (1789)
- ▶ Anna Letitia Barbauld, “What is Education?” (1798)
- ▶ Samuel Taylor Coleridge, “Frost at Midnight” (1798)

### 10. OCTOBER 20<sup>TH</sup> - WRITING FOR CHILDREN

- ▶ Anon., selections from *A Little Pretty Pocket-Book* (1787)
- ▶ Anna Letitia Barbauld, selections from *Hymns in Prose for Children* (1781)
- ▶ William Roscoe, *The Butterfly’s Ball and the Grasshopper’s Feast* (1805)

### 11. OCTOBER 27<sup>TH</sup> - ESSAY CONSULTATIONS AND DRAFTING

### 12. NOVEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup> - INTOXICATION AND IMAGINATION

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

### 13. NOVEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup> - CONCLUSION AND EXAM REVIEW

