

Asst Professor Katherine Wakely-Mulroney
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Thursdays, 13:30-15:20
HSS Auditorium

HL2004 S1 AY2024-2025

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 (*Due Monday, February 24 by 11:59PM*) 15%
- ▶ Term Paper (*Due Tuesday, April 1 by 11:59PM*): 35%
- ▶ Final Test: 35%



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

LATE PENALTIES AND AI POLICY

Please review the Assessments handout on NTULearn, which includes information concerning the deadlines and expectations for each assignment. Late assignments will be penalised half a letter grade 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. 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 16TH - INTRODUCTION

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

2. JANUARY 23RD - 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. JANUARY 30TH - NO CLASS (CHINESE NEW YEAR)

4. FEBRUARY 6TH - 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)

5. FEBRUARY 13TH - WAYS OF FEELING

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

6. FEBRUARY 20TH - ADAPTING AUSTEN

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

7. FEBRUARY 27TH - ROMANTIC STORYTELLING

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

8. MARCH 13TH- ROMANTIC QUESTIONING

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

9. MARCH 20TH - URBANITY

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

10. MARCH 27TH - CHILDHOOD

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

11. APRIL 3RD - INTOXICATION AND IMAGINATION

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

11. APRIL 10TH - CONCLUSION AND TEST REVIEW

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

13. APRIL 17TH - FINAL TEST (HELD IN CLASS)

