English Romantic Writers:
Late Romanticism

ENG 455/ 555
Winter 2012
Anstett 195
MWF 3-3:50

Prof. Forest Pyle
Office: PLC 270
Hours: W 12:30-2, F 4-5:30
trespyle@uoregon.edu

This course is devoted to the close examination of some principal works of five
writers associated with second generation of British Romanticism and its aftermath:
Lord Byron, Mary and Percy Shelley, John Keats, and Emily Bronte. Each of these
writers is keenly aware of their participation in what Percy Shelley calls “the spirit
of the age” and of their immediate Romantic precursors. Moreover, Byron, Keats,
and the Shelleys can be said to belong to a relatively close circle of writers, editors,
and intellectuals; and each is keenly aware of the work of the others. Emily Bronte,
something of a complete outsider, is born later but displays a keen connection to
many of the central themes and motifs of this late manifestation of British
Romanticism. Our goal is to read and discuss these texts in detail and to consider
their historical milieu as well as the contemporary critical responses they have
elicited.

Texts I have ordered Norton Critical editions for each of these authors. These
editions contain all of the texts we will read for the term and the relevant secondary
material.

Assignments Students will write four brief (2 page) papers on four of the five
authors. These directions for these assignments will vary; but each will be devoted
to close reading of a particular poem or scene from the novels (40%). Students will
write one longer critical paper (5-6 pages) and take a comprehensive final exam
(25% each) Monday, March 19th, at 3:15. Class participation is 10%.

Class Format For a variety of reasons, we have the rare opportunity of a small
seminar-like format at the 400-level. This means that each student is expected to
have completed the assigned reading, to arrive on time with book in hand, and to
participate in class discussion. This is an old-school “unwired” classroom: you may
not use computers or cell phones during class time. Attendance is mandatory:
students who miss more than 5 classes will have their grade reduced by one full
letter.

Schedule of Readings

9 Jan: Introduction: Lord Byron, from Childe Harold’s Pilgrimmage, Canto the
First (Preface, dedication, and stanzas 1-13)
11 Jan: Childe Harold’s Pilgrimmage, Canto the Third (stanzas 1-44)
13 Jan: Childe Harold’s Pilgrimmage, Canto the Third (stanzas 45-118)
16 Jan: **Martin Luther King Birthday**
18 Jan: “Darkness,” *The Prisoner of Chillon* **assignment due**
20 Jan: *Don Juan*, Dedication and Canto the First

27 Jan: “Hymn to Intellectual Beauty,” “Mont Blanc”

30 Jan: “Ode to the West Wind,” *The Mask of Anarchy*
1 Feb: “To a Skylark,” “The Cloud,” “The Sensitive-Plant **assignment due**

8 Feb: *Frankenstein*, Volume II
10 Feb: *Frankenstein*, Volume III

13 Feb: *Frankenstein*, concluded **assignment due**
17 Feb: **No Class**

20 Feb: **John Keats**, selected letters
22 Feb: “Sleep and Poetry,” “On First Looking into Chapman’s Homer,” “On Sitting Down to Read *King Lear* Once Again,” “Lines on Seeing a Lock of Milton’s Hair”
24 Feb: “Bright Star!” “La Belle Dame Sans Merci,” “The Eve of St. Agnes,” “Ode on Melancholy”

27 Feb: “Ode to Psyche,” “Ode to a Nightingale,” “Ode on Indolence”
29 Feb: “On Seeing the Elgin Marbles,” “Ode on a Grecian Urn **assignment due**

7 Mar: *Wuthering Heights*, Volumes VII-XIII
9 Mar: *Wuthering Heights*, Volumes XIV- XXV **Critical Paper due**

12 Mar: *Wuthering Heights*, Volumes XXVI- XXXIV
14 Mar: Contemporary reviews of *Wuthering Heights*
   Emily Bronte, selected poems **assignment due**