

C9: British Romantic Literature (Even Semester, 2024)

Course Instructor: Deepjyoti Bhatta

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Number of classes per week: 05

Monday – 03:00 PM to 04:00 PM (Room No. 15)

Tuesday – 11:00 AM to 12:00 NOON (Room No. 12)

Wednesday – 01:00 PM to 02:00 PM (Room No. 12)

Thursday – 09:00 AM to 10:00 AM (Room No. 12)

Friday – 09:00 AM to 10:00 AM (Room No. 12)

Syllabus for the course: <https://dibru.ac.in/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/B.A-CBCS-English-edited-6th-Dec-2021.pdf> (Page 22-23)

Readings

This course is mostly about poetry. Students respond to poetry in different ways. Some love it, some hate it, some are very indifferent to the genre, some find it difficult to understand poetry, etc. Nevertheless, for this course, I want you to give poetry a chance. I want you to approach poetry like a kid would approach a new game, with a sense of curiosity and wonder. I believe that poetry has the potential to offer you a whole new world of fresh perspectives. To quote Joy Harjo, “When I began to listen to poetry, it's when I began to listen to the stones, and I began to listen to what the clouds had to say, and I began to listen to others. And I think, most importantly for all of us, then you begin to learn to listen to the soul, the soul of yourself in here, which is also the soul of everyone else”. As and when we proceed with the course, I want us as a class, to think about, the role and function of poetry in today's world. There is a school of people who say that there is no point of writing and reading poetry when “poetry makes nothing happen” (Auden). Towards the end of this course, I want all of you to have an informed and thoughtful opinion on poetry and share the same with the class.

You are expected to have hard copies of your texts. The prescribed poems are easily available online. Remember that your primary text is your everything. Like a doctor examines a body and comes up with diagnosis, you will examine your text and come up with your own analysis and interpretations.

It might be tempting to use the study materials available in the market. Even though there is no direct harm in using them, you must understand that they cannot be used as substitutes for your primary texts.

As far as the long text (*Frankenstein*) is concerned, we will read the Penguin publication in the class.

Besides the primary texts, you will also be required to read and study some critical essays which will enhance your understanding of the prescribed texts and the age of Romanticism.

Notes

Notes will be provided as and when required.

Classroom Ethics

The classroom is a space for arguments and discussions, but it also implies that you are required to be respectful of others. It is an important space to learn how to think. Please speak in the class, learn to listen to others, and create/provide space for others to participate. Your classroom participation will account for 5% of your internal assessment marks.

Attendance

As per the university/college regulations, 75% attendance is compulsory.

Assignments and Exams

As a group, you will research one of the following:

- 1) Romanticism beyond Europe
- 2) Gendered politics of/in the Romantic Canon.
- 3) Relevance of Romantic thought and philosophy in the contemporary period
- 4) Assamese Romanticism
- 5) Revisiting *Frankenstein* in the 21st Century
- 6) Why write poetry in a burning world?

You will create a portion of a PowerPoint presentation that will become part of a class PowerPoint presentation. As your portion of the presentation appears, you will explain your slide(s).

Guidelines for your commentary in the presentation:

- Briefly summarize the information for which you are responsible. Focus on the key information about your topic. Details can be presented orally. PowerPoint presentations are not intended to include the details, only main ideas.
- Each group member should be responsible for part of the research. You may decide as a group who will create the slides.

- Your group should have no fewer than four sources. Only one may be a web site. You should look for books and database articles for the remaining four sources. You may have additional web sites if you decide to look beyond the four required sources.
- It is best to have an outline before you so that you will not forget key facts, ideas, names, etc. How polished and accurate you are will be reflected in your score.
- Your presentation should be smooth. Before you come to class, you will decide who is responsible for speaking, and when.
- How well you and your group work together will influence your score. Be prepared.

You must submit digital copies of your assignments. The digital copies (in pdf) must be uploaded at the Online Education portal of the college website and subsequently mailed to me at d.bhatta@iitg.ac.in. When you submit a file online, please give it a descriptive filename. The preferred format for file name is <Student's Last Name> <Class and Semester> <Roll Number> <Topic>. For example: If David Pegu has written an assignment on "Language Politics in Lewis Carol's fiction", then the file name should be "Pegu Sem IV 01 Language Politics in Lewis Carol's fiction.docx".

Please do not submit plagiarised work. If you do, you will not pass your internal examination.

Besides the assignments, you are also required to write two sessional examinations of 25 marks each. The assignments and sessional examinations together will account for 15% of your internal marks.

Best of luck and have a great semester,

Deepjyoti Bhatta.