

English 477 ~ Jane Austen and Her Contemporaries ~

Spring 2013

Division of Humanities—English
University of Maine at Farmington

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Oftentimes students have a vision of Jane Austen as a grand, stand-alone author, or a quiet, reclusive figure who wrote in a genre and time all of her own. Of course, that was not the case. Austen did not write the first English novel, and she certainly was inspired (positively and negatively) by her predecessors' and contemporaries' writings. In order to fully understand Austen as a writer, we should consider her fiction as receptive and reactive. This course will ask you to read Austen's fiction alongside poetry, prose, and drama written by her contemporaries on the topics of history, parody, the gothic, economics, sensibility, and religion. In addition to Austen, students will be introduced to writers such as Ann Radcliffe, Mary Wollstonecraft, Elizabeth Inchbald, and Hannah More.

Get ready to become an *enthusiastic, active participant* in this course by contributing discussion questions about our readings, completing reading responses, giving a formal class presentation, and conversing informally with your classmates about our course materials. Be prepared to write on parody, a close reading assignment, and a final research paper. The parody assignment will allow you either to write a parody of Austen, along with a critical introduction, or to compose a thoughtful analysis of Austen's use of parody. In the middle of the semester you will apply your knowledge about late 18th-century and early 19th-century English culture to a close reading of Austen's *Sense and Sensibility*, and at the end of the semester you will write a seminar-length, thesis-driven research paper related to the readings and/or topics discussed in the course.

REQUIRED TEXTS

You must purchase the following texts for the course. Please do not use other editions.

Austen, Jane. *Mansfield Park*. New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 1998.

---. *Northanger Abbey*. New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 2004.

---. *Sense and Sensibility*. New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 2002.

Todd, Janet, ed. *Jane Austen in Context*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2006.

The Veiled Picture; or, The Mysteries of Gorgono (Gothic Classics). Ed. Jack Voller. Kansas City, MO: Valancourt, 2006.

Note: You will need to print other readings, which are located on our Blackboard site. You should own a copy of UMF's *Bedford Handbook*. If you do not own one, refer to the Purdue OWL website to review MLA citation style.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADE DETERMINATION

Class Participation, Discussion Questions, and Reading Responses	20%
Student Presentation	20%
Paper 1: Parody Assignment	15%
Paper 2: Literary Analysis	20%
Paper 3: Research Paper (including a proposal and abstract)	25%

English 477 Course Schedule

Spring 2013

Krueger

You are responsible for completing the readings before each class date and bringing those readings to class. On days in which we discuss online texts, I encourage you to bring a technological device to class that will allow you to view the materials. If you cannot bring one of these devices to class, then you will need to print the materials.

Note that the acronyms below correspond with the following items: JAC = *Jane Austen in Context*; NA = *Northanger Abbey*; S&S = *Sense and Sensibility*; MP = *Mansfield Park*; Bb= item located on Blackboard

Week 1:

- Tuesday, 1/22 --Overview of Course
--Jocelyn Harris's "Jane Austen" (excerpts on handout)
--*Jane Austen's Fiction Manuscripts*: "Plan of a Novel"
--Discussion of Genre: 18th-century fiction and the novel
- Thursday, 1/24 --Deidre Le Faye's "Memoirs and Biographies" (JAC)
--Henry Austen's "Biographical Notice of the Author" (NA)
--Henry Austen's "Memoir of Miss Austen" (on Bb)
--Jan Fergus's "Biography" (JAC)
--Margaret Kirkham's "Portraits" (JAC)
Discussion Question Due

Week 2:

- Tuesday, 1/29 --Isobel Grundy's "Jane Austen and Literary Traditions" (excerpts on Bb)
--Jane Stabler's "Literary Influences" (JAC)
--Richard Cronin's "Literary Scene" (JAC)
--Kathryn Sutherland's "Chronology of Composition and Publication" (JAC)
--Mary Waldron's "Critical Responses, Early" (JAC)
- Thursday, 1/31 --Antje Blank's "Dress" (JAC) [Note: Look at the pictures!]
--Alan Richardson's "Reading Practices" (JAC)
--Claudia L. Johnson's "The Juvenilia and *Northanger Abbey*" pp. 306-17, 325 only (NA)
Reading Response Due (Upload to Bb Discussion Board)

Week 3:

- Tuesday, 2/5 --Oliver Goldsmith's *History of England* Volume 3 excerpts (Bb)
 --Jane Austen's *History of England* (NA)
 --Look at handwritten manuscript of *History of England* (Bb)
 --Devoney Looser's "Reading Jane Austen and Rewriting Herstory," pp. 184-191 *only* (Bb)

Student Presentation: Cidney

- Thursday, 2/7 -- NA, pp. 5-54
 --Ann Radcliffe's *Mysteries of Udolpho* (excerpts in NA)
 --*The Veiled Picture*
 --Fanny Burney's *Evelina* (excerpts in NA)

Student Presentation: Megan

Week 4:

- Tuesday, 2/12 --NA, pp. 54-136
 --Devoney Looser's "Reading Jane Austen and Rewriting Herstory," pp. 191-203 *only* (Bb)

Student Presentation: Nikki

- Thursday, 2/14 --NA, pp. 136-174
 --Roger Moore's "The Hidden History of Northanger Abbey" (Bb)

Discussion Question Due

Student Presentation: Abi C.

Week 5:

- Tuesday, 2/19-21 **Spring Break I**

Week 6:

- Tuesday, 2/26 **Parody Assignment Due**
 --Raymond Williams's "Sensibility" (on Bb)
 --Hannah More's *Sensibility* (excerpts in S&S)
 --Hannah More's *Strictures on the Modern System of Female Education* (excerpts in S&S)

- Thursday, 2/28 --Adam Smith's *Theory of Moral Sentiments* (excerpts in S&S)
 --Mary Wollstonecraft's *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* (excerpts in S&S)
 --The Lady's Magazine's "The Enthusiasm of Sentiment; a Fragment" (in S&S)

Reading Response Due (Upload to Bb Discussion Board)

Week 7:

- Tuesday, 3/5 --Jane West's *A Gossip's Story*, Volume 1 PDF pp. 1-125 and 171-235 (on Bb)
 --David Thame's "Cooking up a Story: Jane West, Prudentia Homespun..." (on Bb)

Student Presentation: Lauren K.

- Thursday, 3/7 --Jane West's *A Gossip's Story*, Volume 2 PDF pp. 1-72 (on Bb)

Discussion Question Due

Week 8:

Tuesday, 3/12 --Jane West's *A Gossip's Story*, Volume 2 PDF pp. 72-234 (on Bb)
 --Angela Rehbein's "Dutiful Daughters...in Jane West's 'A Gossip's Story'" (on Bb)
Student Presentation: Zoe

Thursday, 3/14 --J.M.S. Tompkins's "Elinor and Marianne": A Note on Jane Austen" (Bb)
 --S&S, pp. 5-53
 --*Hyper-Concordance* (link on Bb) [Look up keywords before class.]
 --*A Concordance to the Works of Jane Austen* [I will bring this set to class.]
Student Presentation: Alaina

Week 9:

Tuesday, 3/19 --S&S, pp. 53-150
 --John Mullan's "Psychology" (JAC)
Discussion Question Due
Student Presentation: Gus

Thursday, 3/21 --S&S, pp. 150-201
 --Marilyn Butler's "Sensibility and the Worship of the Self" (S&S)
Student Presentation: Alyssa

Week 10:

Tuesday, 3/26 --S&S, pp. 201-269
 --Mary Poovey's "Ideological Contradictions and the Consolations of Form..." (S&S)
Reading Response Due (Turn in Response in Class)
Student Presentation: Lauren B.

Thursday, 3/28 **Close Reading Assignment Due & Presentation of Assignments**

Week 11:

Tuesday, 4/2-4 **Spring Break II**

Week 12:

Tuesday, 4/9 --Gary Kelly's "Education and Accomplishments" (in JAC)
 --Thomas Gisborne's *An Enquiry into the Duties of the Female Sex* (excerpts in MP)
 --Hannah More's *Strictures on the Modern System of Female Education* (excerpts in MP)
 --John Gregory's *A Father's Legacy to His Daughter* (excerpts in MP)
 --Mary Wollstonecraft's *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* (excerpts in MP)
Student Presentation: Emily

Thursday, 4/11 --Michael Wheeler's "Religion" (in JAC)
 --Hannah More's *Thoughts on the Importance of the Manners of the Great to General Society* (on Bb)
 --Hannah More's *Cheap Repository Tracts* (excerpts on Bb)
 --Anne Mellor's "Hannah More, Revolutionary Reformer" (on Bb)
Discussion Question Due
Student Presentation: _____

Week 13:

Tuesday, 4/16 --Elizabeth Inchbald's *Lovers' Vows* (in MP)
Reading Response Due (Turn in Response in Class)
Student Presentation: Katie

Thursday, 4/18 --Jane Austen's "Evening Prayer No. I" (in MP)
--*A Companion to the Altar* excerpts (in MP)
--Michael Giffin's "Jane Austen and Religion" (on Bb)
Proposal for Seminar Paper Due
Student Presentation: _____ **Ian** _____

Week 14:

Tuesday, 4/23 --MP, pp. 5-120
--Joseph Litvak's "Theatrical and Theatricality in *Mansfield Park*" (in MP)
Student Presentation: _____ **Abigail H.** _____

Thursday, 4/25 --MP, pp. 121-179
--Warren Roberts' "Nationalism and Empire" (in JAC)
Discussion Question Due
Student Presentation: _____ **Monica** _____

Week 15:

Tuesday, 4/30 --MP, pp. 179-277
--Michael Giffin's "Mansfield Park" (on Bb)
Reading Response (Turn in Response in Class)
Student Presentation: _____

Thursday, 5/2 --MP, pp. 277-321
--Mary Waldron's "The Frailties of Fanny" (on Bb)
Student Presentation: _____

Week 16:

Tuesday, 5/7 --Jane Austen, "Opinions of *Mansfield Park*" (in MP)
--*Mansfield Park Anecdotal Records* and *Publishing Papers* (on Bb)
--*Sense and Sensibility Anecdotal Records* and *Critical Reviews* (on Bb)
Discussion Question Due

Thursday, 5/9 --David Gilson's "Later Publishing History, With Illustrations" (in JAC)
--Deidre Shauna Lynch's "Sequels"
Reading Response Due (Turn in Response in Class)

Week 17:

Tuesday, 5/14 --**Abstract Due 1 Day before Seminar Paper (post to Bb)**
--**Seminar Paper Due**
--**Student Presentations of Projects**