

A Fall 2017 Humanities Seminar at the University of Arizona

***The Romantic Poets:
Revolution and Retrospection***

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This Seminar focuses on the most influential poets who led the English Romantic movement in Great Britain between 1793 and 1824 and helped lead the West into the modern world. The emphasis is on the philosophical, emotional, and stylistic tugs-of-war within them between (1) proposals for revolutions in how human society should be and how individuals relate to the wider world and (2) retrogressive longings for earlier orders of being and poetic styles whose revivals promise a better world than what was then emerging as one of rapid change, aggressive industrialism, and widespread conflict.

Books Needed

The Longman Anthology of British Literature, Fifth Edition: Volume 2A – The Romantics and their Contemporaries, ed. Peter Manning and Susan Wolfson (Boston: Pearson, 2012) – hereafter abbreviated as “*L.*”
Mary Robinson: Selected Poems, ed. Judith Pascoe (Peterborough, Canada: Broadview Press, 2000) – hereafter “*MRSP.*”

Schedule of Topics and Readings (in advance of each session)

- Oct. 4** – Introduction to the Romantic era (*L.*, pages 7-54, 108-30)
Oct. 11 – William and Dorothy Wordsworth (*L.*, 282-84, 592-611, 410-77, 551-60)
Oct. 18 – Wordsworth and Samuel Taylor Coleridge (*L.*, 477-542, 624-71)
Oct. 25 – Coleridge as poet *and* theorist (*L.*, 673-701)
Nov. 1 -- Mary Robinson, with a look at Mary Wollstonecraft (*L.*, 289-90, 302-26, 671-73, and *MRSP.*, 76-87, 182-288)
Nov. 8 -- The early George Gordon, Lord Byron (*L.*, 708-58, 765-79)
Nov. 15 – The later Lord Byron (*L.*, 781-862)

Nov. 29 – Percy Bysshe Shelley (*L.*, 868-93, 911-30)
Dec. 6 -- Shelley and John Keats (*L.*, 894-909, 973-88, 1001-14, 1045-60)
Dec. 13 – Keats and some concluding reflections (*L.*, 988-1003, 1014-45)