English 6640: Form and History in Romantic Poetry
Prof. Andrew Franta
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Fall 2019, MW 11:50-1:10, LNCO 3870
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Office hours: MW 1:10-3:00

Description:
Over the last fifty years, scholarship on Romantic poetry has been divided between formalist and historicist approaches. Poststructuralist, deconstructive, and, more recently, New Formalist critics have stressed the “literariness” of Romantic poetry; New Historicians and practitioners of ideology critique and cultural studies have emphasized Romantic poetry’s determination by its historical contexts. In this course, we will explore the critical resources available for the interpretation of Romantic poetry in light of this critical opposition in order to consider how we might understand the form of Romantic poetry as itself a historical practice.

Readings will include poetry and prose by William Wordsworth, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Charlotte Smith, John Keats, Percy Bysshe Shelley, George Gordon, Lord Byron, and Felicia Hemans.

Requirements:
Over the course of the term, students will write two short papers (5-6 pages) that will be presented in class and will frame the day’s discussion. One of these short papers will serve as the starting point for a seminar paper of 12-15 pages.

Course policies:
The course will be conducted as a seminar. Its success depends on the active participation of all of its members. Attendance, preparation, and participation are expected and will constitute an important part of the course grade. Absences will negatively affect your grade for the course.

Texts:
Lord Byron: The Major Works (Oxford) 109953733X
S.T. Coleridge, Samuel Taylor Coleridge: The Major Works (Oxford) 0199537914
Felicia Hemans: Selected Poems, Prose and Letters (Broadview) 1551111373
John Keats, Complete Poems (Harvard) 0674154315
Percy Bysshe Shelley, Shelley’s Poetry and Prose (Norton) 0393977523
Charlotte Smith, Charlotte Smith: Major Poetic Works (Broadview) 1554812844
William Wordsworth: The Major Works (Oxford) 0199536863

Secondary readings are available on Canvas or online.