English 6640: Form and History in Romantic Poetry
Prof. Andrew Franta
Email: a.franta@utah.edu
Fall 2019, MW 11:50-1:10, LNCO 3870
Office: LNCO 3621; Phone: 581-7850
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 Historians and practitioners of ideology critique and cultural studies have emphasized its 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 poetic form as itself a historical practice.

Alongside poetry and prose by William Wordsworth, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Charlotte Smith, John Keats, and Percy Bysshe Shelley, we will read widely in current Romantics criticism, including work by Mark Canuel, James Chandler, Paul de Man, Lee Edelman, Frances Ferguson, Denise Gigante, Kevin Goodman, Amanda Jo Goldstein, Jacques Khalip, Marjorie Levinson, Brian McGrath, Forrest Pyle, Emily Rohrbach, Jonathan Sachs, and Lily Gurton-Wachter.

Requirements:
Over the course of the term, students will write three short papers (5-6 pages), one of which will be presented in class and will frame the day’s discussion. Each member of the seminar will also write a 1000-word review of a recent book in Romantic studies.

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 final course grades.

Texts:
S.T. Coleridge, Samuel Taylor Coleridge: The Major Works (Oxford) 0199537914
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.