

**ENGL 213A - FROM REASON TO REVOLUTION –
Spring 2015@ 3:30- 4:45 p.m. (Tues-Thurs: NICELY 322)**

Professor: Joshua D. Gonsalves (Fisk 313)
Office Hours: Tues: 2:30-3:30

E-mail: jodago@aub.edu.lb
Thurs: 2:30-3:30 or by appt.

In this course, we read primary works of British literature from the Age of Reason and Sensibility (the 18th-century) and the Age of Revolution (Romanticism/early 19th century). These works will be analyzed as literary documents (i.e., through the interpretation of style, rhetoric, meaning and other forms of *close reading*) and as engagements with the sociopolitical changes characterizing this multifaceted period in British, German (via the great, mad Bavarian poet Hölderlin) and World History. The overall aim of the course is to keep both literary expression and historical change in mind via a discussion-based format focused on critical acts of analysis and interpretation. What, then, is the relation between reason, revolution, and unreason (revolution)?

TEXTS

- *Romantic Poetry and Prose: An Oxford Anthology* (Eds. L. Trilling and H. Bloom).
- *Eighteenth-Century Poetry: An Annotated Anthology* (Ed. D. Fairer; 3rd Ed).
- *The Death of Empedocles: A Mourning-play*, by Friedrich Hölderlin
(Ed. David Farrell Krell)
- *Hymns and Fragments* by Friedrich Hölderlin (Trans. Seiburth)

N.B.; *Please read the editorial introductions to **both** the poets **and** the individual poems we will be studying this semester.*

Tues. (Jan 27): Introduction to the Eighteenth-Century.

Thurs.: Johnson, “The Vanity of Human Wishes” (*Eighteenth-Century Poetry*, 350-359).

Tues. (Feb 3): Pope, “Essay on Criticism” (Parts 1-3; Links 7-9:
<http://rpo.library.utoronto.ca/poet/263.html>)

Thurs.: Thomson, *The Seasons*: “Spring” (256-269).

Tues.: Gray, "Ode on a Distant Prospect of Eton College" "Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard" (415-417, 419-423).

Thurs.: Collins, "Ode on the Poetical Character," "Ode to Evening" (435-437, 440-441).

Tues: Smart, *Jubilate Agno* (498-499), Goldsmith, "Deserted Village" (530-540).

Thurs.: William Blake, *Songs of Innocence and of Experience (Romantic Poetry and Prose, 10-14, 17-29)*.

Tues.: Blake, *The Marriage of Heaven and Hell* (33-44).

Thurs.: William Wordsworth, "Lines Written in Early Spring," "Expostulation and Reply," "The Tables Turned" (124-29); Preface to *Lyrical Ballads* (591-611).

Tues. (March 3): *Romantic Half-Creation* (William Wordsworth, "Lines Composed a Few Miles Above Tintern Abbey") **AND** *Total Destruction* ("Nutting"; 146-52).

Thurs.: Wordsworth: *Ode & Elegy* (174-81, 185-87); Coleridge's *Biographia Literaria and the Question of "Organic Form"*: Chapters XIV/XVII & "Organic Form" (633-34, 645-56).

Tues.: Wordsworth, *The Prelude...continued* (187-229).

Thurs.: Coleridge, "Kubla Khan" and "Frost at Midnight," (257-72).

Tues.: Coleridge, "Dejection," and the *Anti-Romantic* Poems ("Limbo" and "Ne Plus Ultra"; 273-79, 283-84).

Thurs.: P. B. Shelley, "Hymn to Intellectual Beauty" and "Mont Blanc" (398-400, 408-14), *A Defense of Poetry* (744-62).

Tues.: Shelley, *Death AND Finitude*: "The Triumph of Life" (478-93).

Thurs.: *The Death of Empedocles: A Mourning-play*, by Friedrich Hölderlin

Tues.: CONTINUED

Thurs. (April 2): **The Birth of Romantic Love-Death** (Hölderlin): *Hymns and Fragments*

Tues. *Hymns...by Hölderlin*

Thurs. *Fragments . . . by Friedrich*

Tues.: **Romantic Terraforming: Time&History&Geopolitics** (Hölderlin in a Nutshell)

Thurs.: *John Clare and the Problem of "Peasant Poetry"* ("Pastoral Poesy," "To Wordsworth," "[Poem]," "The Peasant Poet," "Poets Love Nature," "I Am"; 571-72, 573-74, 577-78).

Tues.: Byron's *Lara* and *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage* (290-2, 293-307).

Thurs.: *The Apotheosis of the Ode*: "Ode on a Grecian Urn" and "Ode to a Nightingale" (541-43, 556).

Tues.: *Gothic Keats: The Eve of St. Agnes* and "La Belle Dame Sans Merci" (524-35).

Thurs.: Keats's HYPERIONS: *Hyperion* (504-524)

Tues. (May 5): Keats's HYPERIONS: *The Fall of Hyperion* (546-556)

Thurs.: *Wrap-up – Review*

GRADE DISTRIBUTION

Attendance/Participation: 10%.

1 Close Readings of a Poem (5-6 pgs.): 25%.

'Take-home' Mid-term Exam: 20%.

1 Close Reading of a Poem (7-8 pgs): 25%.

'Take-home' Final Exam: 20%.

Papers must be turned in during the class session on the due date, with no exceptions. Late papers will not be accepted without a medical excuse. Late papers will be penalized 5 points a day (i.e., a deduction from 85% to 80%) starting immediately after the class session for which they are due. NO papers will be accepted by E-MAIL!