



Instructor: Dan White

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Course Number: ENG323H5F

Course Title: Austen and Her Contemporaries

Course Description: In addition to three of the six completed novels by Jane Austen (1775-1817), we will read a range of works by Austen's contemporaries as well as contemporary reviews of Austen's novels. The course will thus provide an understanding of her work as part of the complex literary, social, and political relationships of the Romantic period. We will read *Northanger Abbey* (completed in 1802 but not published until 1817) along with Gothic fiction, which it satirizes, and aesthetic theories of the sublime and the picturesque; consider *Emma* (1816) alongside writings on marriage and landed property; and place *Persuasion* (1818) in the context of conduct book literature as well as the poetry of Byron and Scott.

Required Reading:

Broadview editions of *Northanger Abbey*, *Emma*, and *Persuasion*; most of the other readings will be included in these editions, but some will either be available for purchase at the bookstore or for downloading and printing from Blackboard.

First Authors to be Studied: *Northanger Abbey*, selections from Ann Radcliffe, Edmund Burke, and William Gilpin.

Method of Instruction: Lecture / discussion.

Method of Evaluation: Three quizzes (30%), test (30%), paper (35%, 8-10 pp.), class participation (5%).