



Instructor: Dan White

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Course Number: ENG470H5F

Course Title: Romantic Drama

Course Description: This course will address a neglected but exciting period in the history of drama. In the process of reading dramatic works by a host of famous and not so famous writers, from Lord Byron and Percy Bysshe Shelley to Joanna Baillie and Elizabeth Inchbald, we will explore relationships between Romantic lyric poetry and the stage; the nature of public performance and censorship in the Romantic period; the differences between the “legitimate” and “illegitimate” stage; and a range of theatrical forms including stage plays, closet dramas, pantomimes, melodramas, and farces.

Required Reading:

Works by Hannah Cowley, Elizabeth Inchbald, Matthew Lewis, Joanna Baillie, Thomas Dibdin, Percy Bysshe Shelley, and Lord Byron.
Secondary sources on drama in the Romantic period.

First Authors to be Studied: As above.

Method of Instruction: Seminar discussion.

Method of Evaluation: Two tests (25% each), one 8-10 pp. term paper (30%), participation (20%).