ENGLISH 163C – Jane Austen and Her Peers (5 units)
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THIS SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Class Website: https://ccle.ucla.edu/course/view/171C-ENGL163C-1

Course Description

This lecture course will analyze four novels by Jane Austen (Sense and Sensibility, Pride and Prejudice, Emma, Persuasion) from a variety of critical perspectives: biographical, feminist, formalistic, generic, and historical. We will place Austen’s novels in the context of the development of her narrative technique as well as the major political and social events of her day (the French Revolution, the women’s rights campaigns and the discourses of female subjectivity, the construction of the “public sphere,” and the emerging Regency culture of consumption). To illuminate her interventions in these events, we will read contemporary examples of the discourse on women’s rights (Mary Wollstonecraft’s The Rights of Woman) and the culture of sensibility (a poem by Hannah More).

Required Reading


You must buy these texts by ISBN numbers since the pages references I will be citing in the lectures are keyed to these texts (other editions of the Norton texts have different pagination).
Books are available for purchase at UCLA Bookstore—either on campus or online. They are also available at stores and from online booksellers such as Amazon.com.

**Course Requirements**

**Each student will write two papers:**

1. A short paper of 850-1000 words analyzing Austen’s *Sense and Sensibility* in relation to the writings of Mary Wollstonecraft.

2. A second paper of 850-1000 words comparing Austen’s *Pride and Prejudice* and *Emma*, on one of the following topics:

   - The rational woman
   - Sexual desire
   - Free indirect discourse
   - Feminist irony
   - Consumption / Capitalism
   - Marriage
   - Motherhood
   - Female friendship
   - Love
   - Female agency
   - Women and the law (Couverture / Entail / Divorce)
   - Masculinity
   - Education / the accomplishments
   - Women’s work
   - Religion / the clergy

**Each student will take a three-hour final exam:**

The exam will be comprised of essay questions and short identifications (of concepts, quotations, characters, places, etc.).

The exam can be taken one of two ways: 1) on campus, proctored traditionally in a classroom, and 2) through ProctorU, a third-party service that allows students to take their exam at home through the use of a home computer with Internet connection and a webcam.

The exam will be administered on campus on Friday, September 15 at an hour and in a room to be announced. Students who take the exam through ProctorU have three hours to complete the exam within a 24-hour window (to accommodate different time zones). The exam will be available through ProctorU beginning Thursday, September 14 at 6:00 pm PDT and ending Friday, September 15 at 6:00 pm PDT. This means that students must start the exam by 3:00 pm PDT in order to meet the deadline.
ProctorU charges a nominal fee (approximately $25), payable directly to that service prior to the start of the test. More information about ProctorU can be found at the end of this syllabus and also at http://www.proctoru.com/.

Live Discussion Sections

You will meet with your Teaching Assistant for one hour per week in a live discussion section, conducted using the web-based video conference service Zoom. Section times are chosen at registration. Attendance is mandatory, including the first week. Sections are led by Teaching Assistants in a format similar to that of discussion sections on campus. You must be sure your Internet connection and computer are sufficiently robust to allow for successful conferencing. If your setup does not meet technical specifications, you will not be able to participate. See the course website for more information.

Grading

Your grade will be based on the following distribution:

- First paper, 20%
- Second paper, 20%
- Exam, 40%
- Participation in Live Weekly Discussions and Discussion Board, 20%

All papers and exams will be submitted through Turnitin.

Policies

This class takes advantage of myUCLA and a third-party service known as Turnitin. Submissions are screened for improper citations and potential plagiarism. Quotes or ideas paraphrased from other work must be properly cited.

UCLA’s policies on academic integrity and student conduct can be found at:

http://www.studentgroups.ucla.edu/dos/students/integrity/
http://www.studentgroups.ucla.edu/dos/students/conduct/

SYLLABUS

Week One

Lesson 1: Introduction – The History and Techniques of the Novel; The Condition of Women in England, 1780-1820

Reading: The Law of Couverture (available on course website)

Lesson 2: Wollstonecraft and the Origins of Feminism
Reading: Mary Wollstonecraft, *Vindication of the Rights of Woman*, pp. 15-101 (Chapters 1-4)

Lesson 3: **AUSTEN IN THE 1790s – Jane Austen’s Biography and Juvenilia**

Reading: Austen, *Love and Freindship* (in *Catharine and Other Writings*, pp. 75-106, OR in *Love and Friendship and Other Youthful Writings*) – you can also find this text online

**Week Two**

Lesson 4: **Sense and Sensibility I**


Austen, *Sense and Sensibility*, Vol. 1

Lesson 5: **Sense and Sensibility II**

Reading: Austen, *Sense and Sensibility*, Vol. 2

Lesson 6: **Sense and Sensibility III**


Assignment: First paper due by 10:00 AM PDT on Sunday, August 20, 2017

**Week Three**

Lesson 7: **Austen and Marriage – Pride and Prejudice I**


Lesson 8: **Austen and Marriage – Pride and Prejudice II**


Lesson 9: **Austen and Marriage – Pride and Prejudice III**


**Week Four**

Lesson 10: **AUSTEN IN THE 1810s – Austen and Female Authority –**
**Emma I**

Reading: Austen, Correspondence with J. S. Clarke (Norton, *Emma*, pp. 353-355)


**Lesson 11:** **Emma II**


**Lesson 12:** **Emma III**


Assignment: **Second paper due by 10:00 AM PDT on Sunday, September 3, 2017**

**Week Five**

**Lesson 13:** **Austen and the Future of the Nation – Persuasion I**


**Lesson 14:** **Persuasion II**


**Lesson 15:** **Persuasion III**


**Week Six**

**Lesson 16:** **Exam Preparation**

Assignment: **Final exam administered on September 14 and 15, 2017. See course website for details.**
Appendix

**Recommended films:**

1. *Sense and Sensibility* (1995), directed by Ang Lee, with Kate Winslett, Emma Thompson, Hugh Grant and Alan Rickman

2. *Masterpiece Classic: Pride and Prejudice* (BBC TV miniseries, 1995), directed by Simon Langton, with Jennifer Ehle, Colin Firth, Susannah Harker, and Alison Steadman

3. *Emma* (1996), directed by Douglas McGrath, with Gwyneth Paltrow, Jeremy Northam, Alan Cumming and Toni Collette (badly cast as Harriet Smith)

4. *Emma* (1996), directed by Diarmid Lawrence, with Kate Bleckinsale, Mark Strong, Samantha Morton and Bernhard Hepton

5. *Persuasion* (BBC TV miniseries, 1995), directed by Roger Michell, with Amanda Root and Ciaran Hinds

**Bibliography** (for those who wish to do further reading):

1. **Austen’s Biography**


2. **Austen and Style**, or “The Old Formalism”


3 – Austen and Sexuality


4 – Austen and Feminism


5 – Austen and History (The “New” Historicism)


6 – Austen and Class


7 – Austen and Post-Colonialist Theory


8 – Austen and Style, or, “The New Formalism”


9 – Austen and Evolutionary Criticism

Blakey Vermeule, Why Do We Care about Literary Characters? (Johns Hopkins UP, 2010) – chapter on Persuasion

10 – The Afterlife of Jane Austen (Literature and Film)


Andrew Higson, English Heritage, English Cinema – Costume Drama since 1980 (Oxford UP, 2003), Chaps. 1-2

Cinematic Jane Austen, ed. David Monaghan, Ariane Hudelet and John Wilshire (2009)

Claudia Johnson, Jane Austen’s Cults and Cultures (U of Chicago Press, 2012)

11 – Overview


Companion to Jane Austen, ed. Claudia Johnson and Clara Tuite (Blackwell, 2012)