

Early Romantic Conceptualizers

BBLAN23100

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Description: This course provides a deeper insight into English romanticism. We will examine the historical context—the social, economical, political situation—in which romanticism emerged and we will trace the careers of some of the greatest early representatives of the “movement” (in particular, Blake, Wordsworth, Coleridge, and Byron). Apart from outlining the life and career of these major poets, we will focus primarily on their philosophical insights. For the early romantics were all great conceptualizers expressing their vision of the human condition in their respective versions of the myth of the fall. The lectures will, therefore, introduce these various versions of the biblical myth and will explore related issues of the status of rationality and imagination, of morality, sin, guilt, love, and creativity.

Assessment: written exam — the exam will include the following types of questions: (1) text recognition; (2) explaining concepts discussed in the lecture; (3) historical and biographical information; (4) matching authors and titles.

Readings:

Blake: *The Songs of Innocence*, from *Songs of Experience*: “Introduction”, “Earth’s Answer”, “The Human Abstract”, “The Tyger”, “Infant Sorrow”, “The Clod and the Pebble”, “The Garden of Love”

Wordsworth: “We are seven”, “Ode: Intimations of Immortality”, “I wandered lonely”, “Preface” to *Lyrical Ballads*

Coleridge: “Kubla Khan”, “The Rime of the Ancient Mariner”, “Christabel”

Byron: Canto I of *Don Juan*