**Freedom, Love, Creativity**

**BBLAN23300**

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**Requirements:**

regular attendance

one home essays (of min. 1,500 words) written on a poem of your own choice from the list below

- your essay must be submitted at the beginning of the class in which we discuss the poem (double-spaced hard copy, please);

- failure to write an acceptable essay will automatically result in failing the course!

three questions about the poems you do not write an essay about (i.e. two sets of such questions); the questions must be emailed to my address (see above) not later than the Friday before the class;

you need not submit anything about Hawthorne’s “Rappaccini’s Daughter” but your knowledge of the text will be tested by a quiz;

**Assessment** will be based on the home essay (40%), on the quiz and the questions about the poems (30%) and on your class activity (30%).

**Schedule (may be subject to change):**

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| Date | Work(s) to be discussed in class | Topics, issues to be discussed (study questions) |
| 14 Sep  15:45-17:15 | Blake: “Introduction” (to *Songs of Innocence*),“Infant Joy,” “Infant Sorrow,” “The Clod and the Pebble” | Individuality and the question of freedom |
| 12 Oct  15:45-17:15 | Wordsworth: “We Are Seven,” “Ode: Intimations of Immortality from Recollections of Early Childhood” | - the language and the characters in “We Are Seven”  - the significance of the encounter (Why did Wordsworth write this poem?)  - describe the process of separation (stanza V) and the changed relationship to nature (stanza VI) in “Ode: Intimations of Immortality”;  - in what way is the child’s situation happier than the adult’s? (stanzas VII and VIII)  - What is it that remains? Try to understand the connection (stanza IX). |
| 26 Oct  13:15-14:45 | Coleridge: “The Rime of the Ancient Mariner” | - narration: who is the speaker and how is he related to the protagonist?  - the structure: frame and centre  - symbolic significance of the albatross, of the act of killing the albatross and of the sun and moon |
| 9 Nov  15:00-17:15 | Hawthorne: “Rappaccini’s Daughter” | - What does the garden represent symbolically?  - What is poisonous and what is healthy? – consider point of view  - Is Giovanni to blame for Beatrice’s death? |
| 16 Nov  13:15-14:45 | Browning: “My Last Duchess,” “Sololoqui of the Spanish Cloister” | - Describe the dramatic situation in both poems. (Who speaks? To whom? In what circumstances? On what occasion?)  - Why did the duke have his wife killed? |