The English Romantics **Summer 2025**
EL 306.01 **June 24- August 12**
Tuesday: 12:00-13:50
Wednesday: 12:00-13:50
Thursday: 12:00-13:50
Friday (PS Hours): 11:00-11:45

Instructor: Matthew Risling
Email: matthew.risling@stmu.ca
Office Hours: T, W, Th, 11:00-11:50 or by appointment

Course Description

This reading intensive course will focus on major authors of the British Romantic Period. The class will provide a substantial overview of the literary era as it developed in different regions across different strata of society. We will study art and literature as it related to important historical moments, such as the rise of science and the French Revolution, and how it related to metaphysical questions about mankind's place in nature and the energetic origins of life. Material will be delivered as a combination of lecture and seminar discussion.

Assignments & Evaluation

Attendance and Participation	10 %
Reading Responses (4x 5%)	20%
Analytical Essay	40 %
Final Exam	30 %

Attendance and Participation
Attendance and participation are required. This includes completing the day's reading before class and coming prepared to discuss it.

Reading Responses
Over the course of the semester, I will give you four reading responses related to the day's readings. These are to demonstrate your critical engagement with the texts and give you the opportunity to pose analytical questions.

Analytical Essay
At the end of Week Five, you will submit an analytical essay of eight-to-ten pages.

Final Exam
The last class will be devoted to a final exam consisting of short-answer and essay questions. No resources will be allowed except a paper dictionary.

Week	Author/ Topic*
Tuesday	Introduction: Literature in an Age of Revolutions • In-Class reading: John Keats, "Ode to a Nightengale", "Ode on a Grecian Urn", "Sleep and Poetry"
Wednesday	Literary Contexts: Augustan to Romantic • Alexander Pope, "A Discourse on Pastoral Poetry" • Joseph Addison, "On the Pleasures of the Imagination"
Thursday	Romantic Beginnings • Charlotte Smith, *Elegiac Sonnets*, first edition
Tuesday	• Charlotte Smith, *Beachy Head*
Wednesday	• Anna Laetitia Barbauld, "Summer Evening's Meditation", "Hymn V", "To the Poor", "Washing Day"
Thursday	Energetic poetry • V. A. De Luca, From *A Wall of Words: The Sublime as Text* • William Blake, "All Religions Are One", "There Is No Natural Religion"
Tuesday	• William Blake, *Songs of Innocence*
Wednesday	• William Blake, *Songs of Experience*
Thursday	• William Blake, *The Marriage of Heaven and Hell*
Tuesday	The Nature of Nature • Mary Jacobus, From *Tradition and Experimentation…* • William Wordsworth, "The Thorn"
Wednesday	• William Wordsworth, "Preface to the Lyrical Ballads (1802)", "The Mad Mother", Tintern Abbey"
Thursday	• William Wordsworth, "Strange Fits of Passion I have Known", "Song", "Lucy Gray", "Nutting" // Sonnets "Composed by the Sea-Side", "Composed upon Westminster Bridge"
Tuesday	The Nature of Imagination • Frances Ferguson, "Coleridge and the Deluded Reade" • S.T. Coleridge, "Kubla Khan"
Wednesday	• S. T. Coleridge, "Foster-Mother's Tale", "The Nightengale"; "Christabel", "The Dungeon", "The Pains of Sleep", "Dejection"
Thursday	• S. T. Coleridge, *Rime of the Ancient Mariner* ➢ **Analytical Essay Due**
Tuesday	Gothic Romanticism • James Watt, "Gothic" • George Byron, *The Giaour* (Advertisement – line200)
Wednesday	• George Byron, *The Giaour* (remainder)
Thursday	• Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein* Volume I
Tuesday	Gothic Romanticism • Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein* Volume II
Wednesday	• Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein* Volume III
Thursday	➢ **Final Exam**

* Texts will be provided on pdf at the beginning of the course.