

Veranstalter:	Prof. Dr. Ute Berns
Thema:	Literature and Culture around 1800 [AA-V3a/b, ENG-12, AA-M4, AA-M6, AA-M12]
Art der Veranstaltung:	Seminar II
Veranstaltungsnummer:	53-549
Zeit:	2st., Mo 12-14
Raum:	Phil 1269
Beginn:	2. April 2012

Course description:

The time around 1800 – sometimes called the period of Romanticism - is often referred to as a stepping stone into the modernity we are familiar with. The wake of the French Revolution marks a historical era of great hopes in the European struggles for political rights and liberties. Followed by the experiences of bloodshed and war on a European scale, however, this hope soon turns into apocalyptic visions. Literature and culture in Britain reflect and shape these attitudes and visions while exploring the subjective dimension of selfhood and the individual imagination. In lyrical poetry, nature is celebrated as a medium of self-recognition and transcendent vision, yet even here the recent findings of natural history render uncertain man's place in the universe.

While Edmund Burke defends patriarchal and monarchical values, Mary Wollstonecraft publishes spirited defences of the rights of man, woman and slave. At the same time Joanna Baillie and William Wordsworth, S.T. Coleridge and Percy Byssche Shelley redefine the role of the poet in poetological prefaces to their lyrical and dramatic work. The social spectrum of authorship opens up to include both the aristocrat Lord Byron and the autodidact and son of a day labourer John Clare, and a number of women - from Charlotte Smith to Mary Shelley - enter the scene.

This seminar shall familiarize you with central topics of the literature and culture of this period, encompassing politics, poetics, the concept of the self and of nature. We will analyse and discuss political and poetological texts and we will study literary writing across a spectrum of different genres that will be related both to relevant historical contexts and our own.

Course requirements:

regular and active participation, solid knowledge of the texts, the willingness to prepare a presentation and, for full credits, an additional essay. A reader will be provided at the beginning of the semester.

Introductory reading:

Sharon Ruston, *Romanticism*, London 2007.

Sprechstunde während der Vorlesungszeit:	
Sprechstunden während der Semesterferien:	6.3., 13-15 Uhr