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Syllabi

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Fall 1997

Classicism and Romanticism (Fall 1997) (Whitman College)

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W H I T M A N C O L L E G E

World Literature 239

Classicism and Romanticism

Fall 1997

Olin 310

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Classicism and Romanticism attempts to provide an overview of the European literature in translation that arose in the so-called classical and romantic periods. Very roughly speaking, one could say that Classical literature was written in the late seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, while Romantic literature was written in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.

The era between the seventeenth and nineteenth centuries is an exciting period. It witnesses the rise of the bourgeoisie, the bourgeois family, the novel, the symphony, the Enlightenment and a gradual move from "head" to "heart." In France, this era brings about the end of feudalism (with the French revolution of 1789) and in America, the end of colonialism (with the American revolution of 1776). At the same time, this industrialization and large-scale colonialism begin in this era. It is a time-period of great contrasts, which we can call, after the philosophers Theodor Adorno and Max Horkheimer, the "dialectic of the enlightenment." On the one hand we see in this period an increasingly laudable understanding of "human" rights, as witnessed by the American and French revolutions; on the other hand, we observe an increasingly specific definition of "humanity," as the white male property owner. We will attempt to discuss these issues as we read the literature of the time.

Grading:

2 short papers	30%
1 research paper	30%
1 presentation	10%
1 final examination	10%
participation	20%

The first short paper should be a personal appraisal of a work that we have read.

The second short paper should be a response to one of the pieces of secondary literature on fairy tales that I will put on reserve.

Your presentation should be lively and lead us into an in-depth discussion of a work of your choice. You're responsible for the

discussion, so prepare a list of questions and provocative statements.

Participation means thoughtful, frequent comments in the discussions. Simply attending does not count as participation.

In fact, poor attendance affects your entire grade, not your participation grade. If you have more than three unexcused absences, your class grade will fall one letter.

General comment on grading: Like most of the faculty, I consider the "B" to be a fine, normal, unobjectionable grade which most students who do everything I want will get. The "A" is reserved for students who have gone beyond what I want to produce something exciting, original, accurate, and well conceived. Papers with numerous errors in grammar or content do not deserve an "A" or a "B."

The same kind of comments can be made about the participation grade. Only exceptionally motivating and motivated contributors will get an "A" for participation. Good, but unexceptional, participants will get a "B." Those who participate infrequently, or whose participation is marred by frequent errors, will get lower grades.

The final exam will consist of a few shorter questions to reward those who have assiduously read everything for the course, and an essay question to help you bring together the main ideas of the course.

Syllabus

Week 1 Introduction and Overview

Sept. 4

Classicism: Triumph of the Mask

Week 2: Madame de Lafayette, Princess of Cleves

Sept. 8 3-38

Sept. 9 39-70

Sept. 11 71-92

Week 3:

Sept. 15 92-134

Sept. 16 135-178

Sept. 18 179-202

Week 4: Jean Racine, Phaedra

Sept. 22 19-32
Sept. 23 33-46
Sept. 25 47-56

Week 5:

Sept. 29 57-68
Sept. 30 69-80
Oct. 2 First paper due. Movie at my house?

Rise of the Bourgeoisie

Week 6: Moliere, The Hypochondriac

Oct. 6 1-37
Oct. 7 38-68
Oct. 9 I will probably be gone

Week 7:

Oct. 14 69-102
Oct. 16

Week 8: Sophie von la Roche, Fräulein von Sternheim

Oct. 20 11-35
Oct. 21 35-80
Oct. 23 80-128

Week 9:

Oct. 27 129-150
Oct. 28 151-174
Oct. 30 175-205

Romantic Flowering

Week 10: Grimms, Fairy tales

Nov. 3 "The Frog Prince" "Hansel and Grethel"
Nov. 4 "Cinderella" "Little Red Riding-Hood"
Nov. 6 "Snow-white" "Rumpelstiltskin"

2nd paper due on Monday, Nov. 10. Respond to a piece of secondary literature on a fairy tale.

Week 11: Hoffmann, Short stories

Nov. 10 "The Sandman"
Nov. 11 Freud on "the Sandman"
Nov. 13 movie at my house?

Week 12:

Nov. 17 "The Golden Pot," 1-35
Nov. 18 36-58
Nov. 20 59-81

Romantic Excesses

Week 13: Goethe, Journeyman Years

Dec. 1 93-153
Dec. 2 153-198
Dec. 4 199-253

Week 14:

Dec. 8 253-312
Dec. 9 312-358
Dec. 11 358-435

Final paper due Dec. 15. 10-page research paper, with at least five secondary sources. Use MLA format.