

## **Fresher Module Description Template 2025-26**

**Full Name: ENU22002: British Romantic Literature**

**Short Name: BRL**

**Lecturer Name(s) and Email Address(es):** Dr Clare Clarke [clare.clarke@tcd.ie](mailto:clare.clarke@tcd.ie)  
and Professor Darryl Jones [drjones@tcd.ie](mailto:drjones@tcd.ie)

**ECTS Weighting: 5 ECTS**

**Semester Taught MT/HT: MT**

**Year JF/SF/JS/SS: SF**

### **Module Content:**

This module gives students the opportunity to study one of the most exciting periods of British literary and social history, when tumultuous political and social changes such as revolution and industrialisation produced a range of remarkable and enduring literary responses. The module examines British Romantic literature through the close study of a broad range of prose, poetry, and non-fiction. The module is structured around examination of the work of the 'Big Six' Romantic writers, whose work is read alongside that of non-canonical Romantic writers, offering the opportunity to study both canonical and lesser-known authors.

The module will take a broadly historicist and thematic approach to the texts studied, examining them within the political, social, and cultural contexts of this revolutionary period and will study a range of critical perspectives on Romantic literature. Students will gain insight into the manifold ways in which Romantic literature engaged with a themes and issues such as: the French Revolution; industrialisation and urban massification; changes in reading habits and education; attitudes to slavery and race; evolving views on childhood, religion, and the natural world.

### **Learning Outcomes:**

Students will gain:

- close knowledge and understanding of a range of Romantic writers, both canonical and non-canonical

- critical skills in the close reading and analysis of a range of literary texts of different modes and genres
- an ability to demonstrate knowledge of a range of texts, authors, and critical approaches within this literary period
- an ability to discuss a range of texts in their intellectual, historical and critical contexts
- an ability to articulate knowledge and understanding of scholarly theories relating to analysis of this literary period
- an ability to demonstrate skills in critical reasoning, including the ability to assess other critical readings
- effective verbal and written communication skills

### **Learning Aims:**

- To gain knowledge of a wide range of canonical and non-canonical British Romantic writers
- To learn the key features of British Romantic literature
- To understand British Romantic Literature within its political, cultural, and literary contexts
- To gain skills in close reading poetry and prose of the Romantic period

### **Assessment Details:**

- Number of Components: 1
- Name/Type of Component(s): essay
- Word Count of Component(s): 2000-2500 words
- Percentage Value of Component(s): 100%

### **Preliminary Reading List:**

#### **COURSE SCHEDULE AND READING LIST**

##### **Lecturers:**

**CC= Dr Clare Clarke**

**DJ= Professor Darryl Jones**

**Week 1: Introduction: Romantic and Revolutionary contexts [CC]**

- Edmund Burke, *Reflections of the Revolution in France* (1790), selected passages
- Thomas Paine, selected passages from *Rights of Man* (1791)
- Hannah More, "Village Politics" (1792) –all on Blackboard

**Week 2: Romantic Poetics I: Poetic manifestos (DJ)**

- William Wordsworth and Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Preface to *Lyrical Ballads*
- John Keats, Selected Odes (on Blackboard)

**Week 3: Romantic childhoods [CC]**

- William Blake, "Holy Thursday"; "Laughing Song"; The Chimney Sweeper poems (*Songs of Innocence and Experience*, 1789)
- William Wordsworth, "We Are Seven"

**Week 4: Romantic Poetics II: Nature and the Sublime (DJ)**

- Charlotte Smith, "Sonnet 59 [Written Sept 1791, during a remarkable thunderstorm]" (1795);
- Percy Bysshe Shelley, "Mont Blanc" (1822)

**Week 5: The Gothic Novel [CC]**

- Horace Walpole, *The Castle of Otranto* (1764)

**Week 6: Liberty, Race, and Slavery [DJ]**

- *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano* (1789)

**Week 7: READING WEEK—NO LECTURES OR TUTORIALS**

**Week 8: Women and reading [DJ]**

- Jane Austen, *Northanger Abbey* (1817)

**Week 9: The Romantic City [CC]**

- William Wordsworth, "Composed upon Westminster Bridge" (1807)
- William Blake, "London" (1794)
- Mary Robinson, "London's Summer Morning; January 1795" (1800)

**Week 10: Science, Birth, and Death in Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* [CC]**

Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein* (1818)

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**Week 11: Romantic Orientalism [DJ]**

- Samuel Taylor Coleridge, *Kubla Khan* (1816)
- Percy Bysshe Shelley, "Ozymandias" (1818)
- George Gordon, Lord Byron, "The Giaour" (1813)

**Week 12: Conclusions and essay advice [CC].**

Please note:

- Curricular information is subject to change.
- Information is displayed only for guidance purposes, relates to the current academic year only and is subject to change.