English Literature: Romantics to Moderns

Text: Longman Anthology of British Literature, 2nd Compact Ed., Vol. B.
Web Page: http://faculty.mercer.edu/glance_jc/English_264_Online/

Course Description:
This course will provide a chronological survey of English literature from the Romantic Age to the modern period. We will read, discuss, and respond in writing to a variety of texts, representing various periods, movements, genres and forms. While the purpose of the course is to provide an overview of many authors and their works, we will also attempt to analyze in detail particular texts and to understand how important cultural events and controversies affected the literature.

Assignments:
Paper: You will write one medium length paper (6–8 typed pages) in which you will analyze in depth some aspect of a single work we have read. This assignment will involve the use of secondary materials and proper MLA documentation. Although most of this course will entail work during Summer Session I (from May 24–June 25), the paper is due by midnight (EDST) on July 17; late papers will be penalized one letter grade for each day late. You should email your paper to me, sending it as an attachment.

Blog: You will create a blog for this course, in which you will write responses to our reading assignments and to the podcast lectures. Your blog entries should focus on the most vital and interesting issues of the text, and ought to include specific references to the text(s) for the day. (Cite page numbers in parenthetical citations, please.) My evaluation of these dailies will take into account both style and content, but the latter is more important. I will drop the lowest grade, and average the rest together. By the end of Summer Session I (June 25) you should have written and posted 20 blog entries. You will also comment on the blog posts of your classmates; by July 17, you should have posted 25 comments.

Class Participation: Because this course is conducted online, it can be difficult for you to feel a part of a community of learners. To facilitate such a sense of community, I will require you to participate in weekly online chat sessions about the readings, and to read and add comments to the blog entries of your classmates. Our chats will occur on Thursday evenings at 9:00 p.m. (EDST). By the due date for the research paper (July 17) you should have a minimum of 25 comments on your classmates’ blog entries.
Grades:
Assignments will count towards your final grade as follows:
Research Paper 30%
Blog 40%
Class participation - Chat 20%
- Blog Comments 10%

Plagiarism:
Plagiarism is a serious violation of the Honor Code. Mercer’s Student Handbook defines plagiarism for you, and there is more information at http://www2.mercer.edu/honorcouncil. If you have any questions please come speak to me. I will assume all submitted written work consists of your own words and ideas; be sure to give proper credit in your dailies and reports whenever that is not the case.

Mercer Policy on Electronic Submission of Assignments:
Students bear sole responsibility for ensuring that papers or assignments submitted electronically to a professor are received in a timely manner and in the electronic format(s) specified by the professor. Students are therefore obliged to have their e-mail client issue a receipt verifying that the document has been received. Students are also strongly advised to retain a copy of the dated submission on a separate disk. Faculty members are encouraged, but not required, to acknowledge receipt of the assignment.

Syllabus of Reading Assignments

Note: these assignments are subject to change. Please follow suggested dates for the readings.

Romantics: (You should complete readings and blog entries for this section by June 4)
French Revolution: 36–73; Definition of “Romantic” (e-text)
William Blake: 74–107
William Wordsworth: 194–236
Dorothy Wordsworth: 290–298
Samuel Taylor Coleridge: 323–355
George Gordon, Lord Byron: 356–391
Percy Bysshe Shelley: 391–404
John Keats: 421–449
Felecia Hemans: 404–418

Victorians: (You should complete readings and blog entries for this section by June 15)
Industrialism: 487–513
Thomas Carlyle: 475–486
Charles Dickens: “A Visit to Newgate” (e-text)
Alfred, Lord Tennyson: 583–616; “Lady of Shallott in 1833 edition” (e-text)
Elizabeth Barrett Browning: 528–554
Robert Browning: 659–689
Victorian Ladies and Gentlemen: 555–583
John Stuart Mill: 513–527
Oscar Wilde: 828–888

**Moderns:** (You should complete readings and blog entries for this section by June 25)
Gerard Manley Hopkins: 773–778
Thomas Hardy: 1071–1079; “On the Western Circuit” (e-text)
George Bernard Shaw: 1002–1071
World War I: 1080–1113
William Butler Yeats: 1113–1130
James Joyce: 1130–1138, 1165–1191
T. S. Eliot: 1191–1221
Virginia Woolf: 1222–1253