

## ENGL 427 Eighteenth-Century and Romantic Studies:

### John Keats: Poetry and Poetics

**Trimester 1 2011**

28 February to 2 July 2011

30 Points



#### TRIMESTER DATES

Teaching dates: 28 February to 3 June 2011

Mid-trimester break: 18 April to 1 May 2011

Study week: 6 – 10 June 2011

Examination/Assessment period: 10 June to 2 July 2011

**Note:** Students who enrol in courses with examinations are expected to be able to attend an examination at the University at any time during the formal examination period.

#### WITHDRAWAL DATES

Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds.aspx>

#### NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS

Staff: Assoc. Prof. Heidi Thomson Email: [Heidi.Thomson@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Heidi.Thomson@vuw.ac.nz)

Phone: 463 6817 (office) or 463 6800 (to leave a message)

Room: von Zedlitz 814

Office Hours: By appointment. I am *not* available for appointments on Wednesdays or Fridays.

#### CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

**Seminars** are held on Monday 10:00 am – 12:50 pm (see schedule below) in von Zedlitz 802 + 1 Library Seminar (in the Library, RB 901).

## COURSE DELIVERY

This course is taught in a seminar format, which means formal lecturing is minimal and that your active participation determines the success of the course. You are expected to attend *every* scheduled meeting. You are expected to be prepared for every seminar. To facilitate group discussion we will start most seminar sessions with an oral presentation on an assigned topic (based on the readings). You will each deliver such a presentation: you summarize the material and you think of a couple of fascinating questions for further discussion. You should send a *one* page outline of your report (email attachment) to me on the day *before* the seminar meets. A xerox of this outline will be distributed to your fellow students and the attachment will be uploaded on the Blackboard course site.

## COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Any additional information will be made available on the ENGL427 Blackboard site. You must check the Announcements on Blackboard and your student email regularly. I only send emails to your student email address. Bear in mind that the Blackboard email system also uses your *student* email address, which means that it is *your* responsibility to set up a forwarding prompt if you do not use your student email.

## COURSE CONTENT

This course is about John Keats's poetry. In addition we will examine Keats's letters and we will read criticism about Keats's poetry and poetics. The aim of the course is to make you aware of Keats's extraordinary poetic development and achievement, his perceptiveness as a reader and critic, and his position within British Romanticism.

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students passing the course should be able to meet the following objectives:

- An understanding of the works by Keats
- An understanding of the critical issues which are associated with this author
- An understanding of the literary traditions and the cultural climate in which this author operated
- An understanding of the process of literary research and its resources
- Increased practical research and writing skills
- An appreciation of beautiful works of literature

## EXPECTED WORKLOAD

You are expected to spend, on average, 24 hours per week on this course. Your workload includes reading the materials, preparing for your oral presentation, researching and writing your essays, and studying for the examination.

**READINGS**

All undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from the Memorial Theatre foyer from 7 February to 11 March 2011, while postgraduate textbooks and student notes will be available from the top floor of vicbooks in the Student Union Building, Kelburn Campus. After week two of the trimester all undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from vicbooks on Level 3 of the Student Union Building. You can order textbooks and student notes online at [www.vicbooks.co.nz](http://www.vicbooks.co.nz) or can email an order or enquiry to [enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz](mailto:enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz). Books can be couriered to you or they can be picked up from the shop. You will be contacted when they are available.

**Essential texts:**

- *Selected Letters of John Keats, Revised Edition*, ed Grant Scott (Harvard University Press)
- *John Keats: Complete Poems*, ed Jack Stillinger (The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press)
- *The MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, Seventh Edition* (Modern Language Association)
- *In addition, you will be required to access and download critical essays from various VUW library databases. I expect all students to be familiar with accessing the VUW library databases.*

**Recommended Reading:**

Recommended readings will occasionally be posted on BlackBoard. You are strongly recommended to read at least one biography (e.g. Gittings, Bate, Ward).

**ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS**

Assessment for this particular course is based on two essays (4,000-5,000 words in total, 70%) and a final exam (3 hours, 30%). The exam is open book. You may take both your books and notes into the examination room. In the exam you may not write on the poem which you wrote on for your essays.

1. Essay 1: 30% of final grade (1,500-2,000 words). Due date: **Monday 2 May 2011, 10 am**
2. Essay 2: 40% of final grade (2,500-3,000 words). Due date: **Friday 3 June, 5 pm**
3. Final examination (3 hours): 30% of final grade (date to be announced; examination period: **10 June to 2 July 2011**)

The Essay Topics are attached and bear a direct relationship to the learning objectives of the course (see above). Both assignments are based on the choice of one major poem by Keats. A list of options is attached. Please email me with your top three choices by **Monday 7 March**. I ask for three options in order to make sure that everybody works on a different poem. If at all possible, I will assign you your first choice. You are strongly encouraged to start work on your essays as early as possible. Do let me know if you want books to be put on Closed Reserve or Three-Day Loan.

Written work should be presented according to the MLA guidelines. Appropriate references and bibliographies are essential requirements. Work which does not meet the requirements of formal

academic presentation will be returned to you unmarked. Word limits and deadlines must be observed.

Essays (2 copies) must be submitted in hard copy (not as email attachments).

You *must* make a photocopy and an electronic backup copy of your assignments for your own records. We cannot assume responsibility for lost work and may ask you for a new copy if necessary. Essays should be delivered to the English Programme 400-level assignments mailbox on the eight floor of von Zedlitz on the due date.

### **ASSIGNMENT COVER SHEETS**

Assignment cover sheets and extension forms can be found on Blackboard or outside the Programme office. Remember to fill in your tutor's name.

### **EXTENSIONS AND PENALTIES**

Extensions will be granted only in exceptional and unforeseen circumstances. Issues of workload do not constitute exceptional and unforeseen circumstances. If you require an extension, you must complete an extension request form (available on your course Blackboard site) prior to the assignment due date. This must be accompanied by relevant documentation (e.g. a doctor's certificate) where appropriate. Tutors cannot grant extensions.

Work submitted after the deadline will be penalised by a 2.5 percent deduction from your total mark per work day. Late work also receives only minimal comments from your marker.

### **MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

To gain a pass in this course you must accomplish each the following in a satisfactory fashion:

- Submit the written work specified for this course, on or by the specified dates (subject to such provisions as are stated for late submission of work)
- Attend all seminars
- Deliver an oral report
- Sit a three-hour final registry conducted examination

### **CLASS REPRESENTATIVES**

A class representative will be elected in the first class, and that person's name and contact details will be available to VUWSA, the Course Coordinator and the class. The class representative provides a communication channel to liaise with the Course Coordinator on behalf of students.

## STATEMENT ON LEGIBILITY

You are expected to present work that meets appropriate standards. Work submitted during the course (i. e. work that is internally assessed) should be typed or prepared on a computer. Work submitted in the final examination will obviously be handwritten. You are expected to write clearly. Where work is deemed 'illegible', you will be given a photocopy of the work and asked to transcribe it to an acceptable standard (preferably typed) within a specified time frame.

## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PLAGIARISM

Academic integrity means that university staff and students, in their teaching and learning are expected to treat others honestly, fairly and with respect at all times. It is not acceptable to mistreat academic, intellectual or creative work that has been done by other people by representing it as your own original work. Academic integrity is important because it is the core value on which the University's learning, teaching and research activities are based. Victoria University's reputation for academic integrity adds value to your qualification. The University defines plagiarism as presenting someone else's work as if it were your own, whether you mean to or not. 'Someone else's work' means anything that is not your own idea. Even if it is presented in your own style, you must acknowledge your sources fully and appropriately. This includes:

- Material from books, journals or any other printed source
- The work of other students or staff
- Information from the internet
- Software programs and other electronic material
- Designs and ideas
- The organisation or structuring of any such material

Find out more about plagiarism, how to avoid it and penalties, on the University's website:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

## WHERE TO FIND MORE DETAILED INFORMATION

Find key dates, explanations of grades and other useful information at [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study).

Find out how academic progress is monitored and how enrolment can be restricted at

[www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress). Most statutes and policies are available at

[www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy), except qualification statutes, which are available via the *Calendar* webpage at [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/calendar.aspx](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/calendar.aspx) (See Section C).

Other useful information for students may be found at the website of the Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Academic), at [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about\\_victoria/avcacademic](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcacademic).

**COURSE PROGRAMME**

Week 1	28 Feb.	Introduction: Keats in the context of British Romanticism  The first assignment.  Readings: <i>Complete Poems (CP)</i> xiii-xxx, 1-26
Week 2	7 March	<b>Please note: Essay choices due.</b>  Early Poems: <i>CP</i> 26-63; <i>Selected Letters (SL)</i> 3-61
Week 3	14 March	Library seminar led by Koichi Inoue in Rankine Brown 901 (please note: this session runs from 11 till 1)
Week 4	21 March	<i>Endymion</i> : <i>CP</i> 64-162
Week 5	28 March	Visit Professor Nicholas Roe  Transition to <i>Isabella</i> : <i>CP</i> 163-198; <i>SL</i> 61-130
Week 6	4 April	Visit Professor Nicholas Roe  <b>Romantic Wonder Workshop</b> , in association with the Alexander Turnbull Library venue to be announced (probably the Archives building in which the ATL is currently housed).
Week 7	11 April	Scottish Tour and after: <i>CP</i> 199-228; <i>SL</i> 130-238  Mid-Trimester Break: Monday 18 April – Sunday 1 May 2011
Week 8	2 May	<b>Please note: First assignment due.</b>  <i>The Eve of St. Agnes</i> and <i>Bright Star</i> , <i>CP</i> 229-247; <i>SL</i> 238-308
Week 9	9 May	<i>Hyperion</i> , <i>The Fall of Hyperion</i> , <i>La Belle Dame Sans Merci</i> , <i>Lamia</i> , <i>CP</i> 248-271, 342-359, 361-373; <i>SL</i> 309-411
Week 10	16 May	The Odes, <i>CP</i> 275-77, 279-286, 360-361; <i>SL</i> 411-486
Week 11	23 May	<i>This Living Hand</i> , <i>CP</i> 374-377, 384; <i>SL</i> 487-516
Week 12	30 May	Review: Reports about essays

**Study Week:** Monday 6 June to Friday 10 June 2011

**Examination/Assessment period:** Friday 10 June to Saturday 2 July 2011

**First Assignment – ENGL 427 – 2010**

**Essay 1: 30% of final grade (1500-2000 words, not including the bibliography) - due on Monday 2 May 2011**

The main objective of this first assignment is to develop your research skills, and to increase your understanding of the criticism about a major Keats poem. This assignment *requires* you to apply the format outlined in the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* to your bibliography.

This is what you need to do:

- Select a poem from the provided list (details provided; every student writes on a different poem)
- Write up a selective bibliography of fifteen scholarly items, i.e. articles in internationally refereed journals, chapters in books, or books published primarily during the last twenty years (i.e. from c. 1990 onwards), which address, or are somehow relevant to your selected poem. In some cases you may want to go further back in time. Your obvious starting point will be the online databases (e.g. *Literature Online*), supplemented by the relevant chapters in the established bibliographies such as Frank Jordan's or Michael O'Neill (see Reading List). At the end of your bibliography add a statement in which you list the particular databases or sources you have used for this exercise (e.g. an annual bibliography in *Studies in English Literature*, the MLA database, etc.).
- Out of those fifteen items, select five which you consider of particular interest.
- Write a 1,500-2,000 word essay in which you briefly describe the usefulness of each article. How does the article contribute to the study of this particular poem? Which aspects are emphasized?
- Your essay must be typed and neatly presented in MLA documentation style.

For the sake of external examining you must hand in two identical hard copies of your work. One copy will be marked and returned to you.

Extensions must be arranged with me in advance, and not on or after the due date. No feedback will be provided on late work.

We cannot assume responsibility for lost work, and you are responsible for making a photocopy and electronic copy of your work for your own records. Never place essays under my office door; such essays may be lost or dated days after they were submitted.

Please do come and see me to discuss your work in progress. I am available by appointment (send me an email to set one up: [Heidi.Thomson@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Heidi.Thomson@vuw.ac.nz)).



**Second Assignment – ENGL 427 – 2011**

**Essay 2: 40% of final grade (2500-3000 words, not including the bibliography) - due on Friday 3 June 2011.**

The main objective of the second assignment is to enhance your research and critical skills by the (relatively!) exhaustive study of one particular Keats poem. This essay enables you to become a specialist in a particular poem. Your essay should consist of the following sections:

1. Preliminary description of the poem: This description includes a brief narrative account of the poem and an indication of its genre (or what kind of label scholars have stuck on this poem).
2. Known facts of composition: What do we know about the context in which the poem was created? What do we know about the poet's activities and interests at the time of composition? Any particular influences? What was he reading?
3. Textual history: How many manuscripts do we know of? Where was the poem first published? What about later editions? Any major textual variants?
4. Contemporary reception: How did the poet's contemporaries respond to this poem?
5. History of critical interpretation of the poem: This section will necessarily be incomplete, but I expect you to identify the main trends in the criticism. You can incorporate some of your findings of the first assignment. Any major breakthroughs? Any periods of neglect or heightened interest?
6. Critical analysis of the poem: Now that you have done all this homework: what do *you* make of the poem?

Your essay must be typed and neatly presented in MLA documentation style. For the sake of external examining you must hand in two identical hard copies of your work. One copy will be marked and returned to you.

Extensions must be arranged with me in advance, and not on or after the due date. No feedback will be provided on late work.

We cannot assume responsibility for lost work, and you are responsible for making a photocopy of your work for your own records. Never place essays under my office door; such essays may be lost or dated days after they were submitted.

Please do come and see me to discuss your work in progress. I am available by appointment (send me an email to set one up: [Heidi.Thomson@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Heidi.Thomson@vuw.ac.nz)).

**First and Second Assignment – ENGL 427 – 2011**

Both assignments are based on one major poem. All poems are in *CP*. Please email me with your top three choices by Monday 7 March at the latest. First come, first served.

<b>Tick or number</b>	<b>Title</b>
	<i>Isabella; or, The Pot of Basil</i>
	<i>The Eve of St. Agnes</i>
	<i>Hyperion: A Fragment</i>
	<i>Ode to Psyche</i>
	<i>Ode to a Nightingale</i>
	<i>Ode on a Grecian Urn</i>
	<i>Ode on Melancholy</i>
	<i>Ode on Indolence</i>
	<i>Lamia</i>
	<i>To Autumn</i>
	<i>The Fall of Hyperion: A Dream</i>