Doctoral Reading List
English Romanticism

Primary Sources:

William Blake: “There Is No Natural Religion”; Songs of Innocence and Experience; The Marriage of Heaven and Hell; The Book of Thel; America: A Prophecy; Visions of the Daughters of Albion; The Four Zoas; Jerusalem.

Robert Burns: “To a Mouse”; “Holy Willie’s Prayer”; “The Cotter’s Saturday Night”; “Tam O’Shanter”; “Song—for a’ That and a’ That.”

William Wordsworth: Lyrical Ballads (1798 and 1800); Preface to Lyrical Ballads (1800); “Nutting”: the “Lucy poems”; “Prospectus” to The Excursion; The Prelude; “The Immortality Ode”; “Resolution and Independence”; “Elegiac Stanzas”; “The Solitary Reaper”; anthology selections from The Excursion; selected sonnets.


Lord Byron: “She Walks in Beauty”; “English Bards and Scotch Reviewers”; “Written after Swimming from Sestos to Abydos”; “Sonnet on Chillon”; “Darkness”; Childe Harold’s Pilgrimage; The Giaour; Manfred; Cain; “Prometheus”; Don Juan.


John Keats: letters from the standard anthologies; “On First Looking into Chapman’s Homer”; “Sleep and Poetry”; “On Seeing the Elgin Marbles”; Book I of Endymion; Hyperion and The Fall of Hyperion; “The Eve of St. Agnes”; “La Belle Dame sans Merci”; Lamia; the Odes; “To Autumn”; “Bright Star”; “This Living Hand.”

John Clare: “The Mouse’s Nest;” “I Am.”

Laetitia Elizabeth Landon: The Improvisatrice

Edmund Burke: “On Obscurity” from A Philosophical Enquiry into the Origins of our Ideas of the Sublime and Beautiful; Reflections on the Revolution in France (arrest and imprisonment of the King and Queen)


Charles Lamb: “Christ’s Hospital Five and Thirty Years Ago”; “Mrs. Battle’s Opinion on Whist”; “The Praise of Chimney Sweeper’s”; “old China.”

Thomas DeQuincey: Confessions of an English Opium Eater; “The English Mail-Coach”; “On the Knocking at the Gate in Macbeth”; “On Murder Considered as One of the Fine Arts.”

Sir Walter Scott: Waverly; “Lochinvar”; selections from The Lay of the Last Minstrel and The Lady of the Lake.

Jane Austen: Sense and Sensibility; Pride and Prejudice; Emma; Northanger Abbey.

Mary Shelley: Frankenstein

Charlotte Bronte: Jane Eyre

Emily Bronte: Wuthering Heights

Students are also advised to consult any of the following anthologies:


Mellor, Anne K. and Richard E. Matlak, eds. British Literature 1780-1830 (Thomson Learning)

Perkins, David, ed. English Romantic Writers (Harcourt)
Secondary Sources:

A. Core Selections:

M.H. Abrams.  *The Mirror and the Lamp*

M. H. Abrams.  *Natural Supernaturalism*


Harold Bloom, “The Internalization of Quest-Romance,” in Bloom, ed. *Romanticism and Consciousness*

Anne Mellor.  *Romantic Irony*

Jerome McGann.  *The Romantic Ideology*

B. Students are also expected to select recent scholarship reflecting their particular interests.

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