

English 3328: Masterpieces of British Literature from the Eighteenth Century  
Fall, 2012  
TTh 2:30-4:00  
Dr. James Pipkin

Course Requirements: active participation in class discussion, two papers (approx. 5-7 pages each), and a final examination.

This course will not attempt the usual survey of nineteenth and early twentieth-century British literature. Instead, it will focus on four poets and four novelists who are representative in certain ways of Romantic, Victorian, and Modernist literatures. More specifically, we will pair Lord Byron and Jane Austen, Alfred Tennyson and Charles Dickens, Gerard Manley Hopkins and Thomas Hardy, and T.S. Eliot and Virginia Woolf. The opportunity to study intensively a limited number of writers and works will allow us to consider some of the issues and conflicts that helped to shape the modern world.

Examples of some of the topics we may discuss include artistic responses to a crisis in culture, the conflicting claims of science and religion, the possibilities of individualism in an increasingly mass society, the value of imaginative vision in a utilitarian world, and the viability of myths in a world that is paradoxically seen as both ruled by tradition and marked by chaos.

Reading List:

Austen *Pride and Prejudice*

Byron: *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage* and *Manfred*

Dickens *Hard Times*

Tennyson *In Memoriam*

Hopkins selected sonnets

Hardy *The Mayor of Casterbridge*

Eliot *The Waste Land*

Woolf *Mrs. Dalloway*