This survey examines literary responses to momentous events, ongoing arguments, and hot topics in Britain from 1800 (and a bit before) to roughly the present day. Part one examines the revolutionary roots of Romantic poetry, theories about the poet’s political and social role, and the rise of the novel. Part Two focuses on the reforming impulses of Victorian writers as they responded to shifting attitudes about class, gender, sexuality, and Empire. Part Three builds on the issues raised throughout the 19th century, exploring how the uncertainty wrought by two Great Wars and developments in technology during the 20th and 21st centuries transformed (or not) individual and national identity.

The texts we study will introduce us to a range of viewpoints that seek to define what it means to be human—to live and love in a world that, depending on one’s experience, is changing too fast or not fast enough. In an effort to tease out these competing desires and perspectives about change, we will organize our close reading around the concept of progress. We will explore how key works define and depict progress or are progressive, as they ask us to consider what we gain and lose when seek to improve, to move forward with or against a community. Does the text lament progress? Does it rebel against established traditions and social codes? Does it do both? And how? What formal conventions help to shape the content of these stories? We will ask questions such as these throughout the semester, but ideally we will form new questions, as we seek to develop a more nuanced understanding of British literature and culture.

Required Texts
Jane Austen, Sense and Sensibility (ISBN: 978-03939777516)
Elizabeth Gaskell, North and South (ISBN: 978-0140434248)
EM Forster, Howard’s End (ISBN: 978-0-14-118213-1)

Learning Objectives
- Identify key historical issues and literary texts (fictional and non-fictional) that have shaped British culture since the late 18th century until the present;
- Reflect on what it means to be human through close study of human experience from the late 18th century until the present;
- Cultivate a critical appreciation for various forms of human expression, including literature, politics, philosophy, and the arts, as well as develop an understanding of the historical and social contexts from which these forms emerge;
- Engage with lasting ideas and values that have animated humanity throughout the centuries for a more purposeful, more ethical, and intellectually richer life;
- Learn to read and interpret actively and analytically, to think critically and creatively, and to write and speak persuasively;
• Learn to evaluate ideas from multiple perspectives and to formulate informed opinions on complex issues of critical importance in today's global world.

**English Department Learning Objectives and Priorities**

• A student with a major in English should graduate with an appreciation for the relations between representation and the human soul; the relations between words and ideas; and the social utility of a sophisticated understanding of discourse. For further details, please consult our website at http://dornsife.usc.edu/engl/undergraduate#English

**Course Requirements**

Detailed instructions for all written assignments listed below will be handed out in class and posted on Blackboard. I am also available to review assignment instructions and drafts if you have any questions.

1. **Short Papers—30% (300 pts).** You will do three short, close reading papers, 500-750 words, one for each unit/period (Romantic, Victorian, 20th C). In these papers, you will do a close analysis of one isolated passage, word, or image (we will discuss the assignment more in class). You may choose the text on which you write, but note that the paper is due one week after our final discussion (see Short Paper Due Dates). These rolling due dates allow you some freedom to organize your schedule. However, because of this accommodation, I cannot accept late papers, e-mail submissions, or excuses. You must submit the paper on the due date listed, so plan accordingly.

2. **Discussion Leader/Respondent—15% (150 pts.)** You will sign up to facilitate the discussion of one of the texts on the syllabus. As a leader (100 pts.), you will pose 1-2 questions about a specific aspect of the text for the class to answer. You must come to class a few minutes early and write the question(s) on the board. In most cases, you will need to coordinate your question with your co-leader. I will select two respondents at random on the day of the discussion. As a respondent (50 pts), you will be the first to answer one of the leaders’ questions. NOTE: You may use your discussion or response as prep for one of your short essays.

3. **Weekly Reading Quizzes and In-class Assignments—15% (150 pts.).** I will regularly update the list of these graded assignments (with point value) on blackboard so that you can keep a running tally of this portion of your grade.

4. **Mid-semester Progress Report—10% (100 pts.).** You will write a 750-word statement of your personal goals for the rest of the course. This assignment is designed to give focus to your further work in the course and to prepare you for the final writing project.

5. **Final Paper—30% (300 pts.).** 8-10 pages in length due on the date and by the end time scheduled for the final exam of this course.

A: 930-1000; A–: 929-895; B+: 894-870; B: 869-830; B–: 829-795; C+: 794-770, etc.

**Course Policies**

**Participation.** This class is a discussion seminar. Your physical and mental presence is required for it to run smoothly and for all of us to get the most out of our time together. If you have more than one week of unexcused absences (that’s 2-3 classes, depending
on our schedule), your final grade will be lowered. When you are absent or late, not only do you miss lectures and content, you miss the chance to articulate your ideas and discover what you know. That said, if you find that you are falling behind in class, please contact me immediately. If I don’t know what is going on, I can’t help.

Office Hours. I am happy to meet with you during my office hour or by appointment to discuss the texts or your interests and literary musings. I encourage you to check in with me about your progress or to ask questions about the theories, texts, and assignments from the course. Office hours are also a fine time to discuss ideas for essays before you start writing; review drafts of your essay before it is due; clarify my comments after it has been graded. Before you come to discuss a graded assignment, you must consult the “Office Hours” handout on Blackboard.

E-mail. I expect that you check your USC e-mail and Blackboard at least once in the morning and once in the evening. You can expect that I will check my email regularly. However, that does not mean I can respond instantly to all of your requests and questions, especially about essays. Those take time and thought, so give me a good 24 hours to respond.

Unless we have made arrangements ahead of time, please do not e-mail your essays. I expect hard copies of all of your essays on the date and time they are due.

Electronics. No laptops or eBooks. Also, no texting during class. If you have an emergency to deal with, please excuse yourself from the classroom.

Reading and Assignment Schedule
Unless otherwise noted, all readings, including Introductions, come from the 10th edition of the Norton Anthology of English Literature. I may make changes to the reading list and assignment due dates as I deem necessary. I will announce in class and email any changes to the syllabus. If you have a different edition of any of the required texts, let me know. In some cases it will work out. In others, it won’t.

PART ONE: The Romantic Age

Week 1 Revolution & the Romantics
M Aug. 20—Introductions
What is Progress?
Close Reading Guide (Handout)
Edmund Burke, From “Reflections on the Revolution in France” (handout)
W Aug. 22—Introduction to “The Romantic Period”
“The Revolution Controversy and the Spirit of the Age” (pp. 183-84)
Burke, Reflections (finish)
Mary Wollstonecraft, From “A Vindication of the Rights of Men”
Read also Price and Paine for context.
William Wordsworth, “We Are Seven”
Short Essay Prep
Week 2 Lyrics, Landscapes, & Longing
M Aug. 27—Finish Intro to “The Romantic Period”
  Wordsworth, Lines Written a few miles above Tintern Abbey,
  Preface to the Lyrical Ballads
  Dorothy Wordsworth, Grasmere Journals
W Aug. 29—Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Rime of the Ancient Mariner,
  “This Lime-Tree Bower My Prison,” and “On the Slave Trade”
F Aug. 31—Jane Austen, Sense and Sensibility (CH 1-4)
  Reading Quiz (RQ) Prep

Week 3 Sensibility & the Estate
M Sept. 3—Labor Day
W Sept. 5—Sense and Sensibility (Vol 1)
  RQ#1
F Sept. 7—John Keats, “Ode on Melancholy”

Week 4 The Marriage Plot & the Novel
M. Sept. 10—S&S Vol 2
W Sept. 12—S&S cont’d
  Close Reading Groups
F Sept. 14—S&S Finish
  Close Reading Groups

PART TWO: The Victorian Age

Week 5 Reformed & Reforming Women
M Sept. 17—Intro to “The Victorian Age”
  Alfred, Lord Tennyson, “Ulysses” & “Mariana”
W Sept. 19—Robert Browning, “Porphyria’s Lover” & “My Last Duchess”
  RQ#2
F Sept. 21—“The ‘Woman Question’: The Victorian Debate About Gender”
  John Ruskin, From “Of Queens’ Garden”
  JS Mill, From “The Subjection of Women”

Week 6 Domesticity, Doubt, & The Rise of the Novel
M Sept. 24—Elizabeth Gaskell, North and South (1855) (Vol I, CH VIII)
  RQ#3
W Sept. 26—North and South (Vol I, CH XVII)
F Sept. 28—N&S (Finish Vol I)

Week 7 Industry & Identity
M Oct. 1—“Industrialism: Progress or Decline?”
  Thomas Babington Macaulay, from “Review of Southey’s Colloquies”
  Friedrich Engels, From “The Great Towns”
  N&S (Vol II, CH XI)
  RQ#4
W Oct. 3—N&S (Vol II, CH XVII)
F Oct. 5—N&S Finish
Week 8 Empire & Interiority
M Oct. 8—“Empire and National Identity”
  Thomas Babington Macaulay, “Minute on Indian Education” (1835)
  T.N. Mukharji, from “A Visit to Europe”
  Briefel, “On the 1886 Colonial and Indian Exhibition” (Blackboard)
  Due: Midterm Progress Report
W Oct. 10—Robert Louis Stevenson, The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde (to p. 1686)
  Labouchere Amendment from the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1885 (aka Blackmailer’s Charter) (handout)
F Oct. 12—NO Class
  DUE: Discussion Board Post

Week 9 (Im)Proper Ladies and Gentleman
M Oct. 15—Jekyll and Hyde cont’d
W Oct. 17—Introduction to the Twentieth and Twenty-First Century
  EM Forster, Howard’s End (CH I-III)
  RQ#5
F Oct. 19—Howards End (through CH XV)

PART THREE: Twentieth Century and After

Week 10 Middle Class Morality
M Oct. 22—Introduction to Twentieth Century and After
  Howard’s End (through CH XV)
W Oct. 24—Howard’s End (through CH XIX)
F Oct. 26—Howard’s End (through XXVII)

Week 11 War Neurosis
M Oct. 29—Howard’s End (Finish)
W Oct. 31—Claude McKay, “If We Must Die” and “Old England”
F Nov. 2—“Voices From World War I”
  Jessie Pope (handout)
  Siegfried Sassoon, “Glory of Women”
  Wilfred Owen, “Dulce Et Decorum Est”
  RQ#6

Week 12 Oursiders
M Nov. 5—“Voices from WWII”
  Morten Tyldum (dir.), The Imitation Game
  Woolf, Sitwell, Reed, or Douglas
W Nov. 7—Derek Walcott, “A Far Cry from Africa”
  Seamus Heaney, “Casualty”
F Nov. 9—Hanif Kureishi, The Buddha of Suburbia (through CH 2)
  RQ#7
Week 13
M Nov. 12 — Derek Walcott, “A Far Cry from Africa”
        Seamus Heaney, “Casualty”
        RQ#8
F Nov. 16 — Buddha, begin Part Two: In the City (through CH 11)

Week 14 Pop Culture/Counter Culture
M Nov. 19 — Kureishi, *Buddha of Suburbia*, (finish)
W Nov. 21-F Nov. 23 Thanksgiving Break

Week 15
M Nov. 26 — Black Mirror, “White Christmas,” “Entire History of You” and “Be Right Back”
W Nov. 28 — Discuss Final Essays
F Nov. 30 — Wrap up

F Dec. 7 DUE: Final Essay (hard copy and email to ewright@usc.edu by 1:00 pm)

Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems

**Academic Conduct:**
Plagiarism – presenting someone else’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in SCampus in Part B, Section 11, “Behavior Violating University Standards” policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in SCampus and university policies on scientific misconduct, http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct.

**Support Systems:**
Student Counseling Services (SCS) – (213) 740-7711 – 24/7 on call
Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention. engemannshc.usc.edu/counseling

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline – 1 (800) 273-8255
Provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org

Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP) – (213) 740-4900 – 24/7 on call. Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm. engemannshc.usc.edu/rsvp

Sexual Assault Resource Center
For more information about how to get help or help a survivor, rights, reporting options, and additional resources, visit the website: sarc.usc.edu
Office of Equity and Diversity (OED)/Title IX Compliance – (213) 740-5086 Works with faculty, staff, visitors, applicants, and students around issues of protected class. equity.usc.edu

Bias Assessment Response and Support
Incidents of bias, hate crimes and microaggressions need to be reported allowing for appropriate investigation and response. studentaffairs.usc.edu/bias-assessment-response-support

The Office of Disability Services and Programs
Provides certification for students with disabilities and helps arrange relevant accommodations. dsp.usc.edu

USC Support and Advocacy (USCSA) – (213) 821-4710
Assists students and families in resolving complex issues adversely affecting their success as a student EX: personal, financial, and academic. studentaffairs.usc.edu/ssa

Diversity at USC
Information on events, programs and training, the Diversity Task Force (including representatives for each school), chronology, participation, and various resources for students. diversity.usc.edu

USC Emergency Information
Provides safety and other updates, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible. emergency.usc.edu

USC Department of Public Safety – UPC: (213) 740-4321 – HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24-hour emergency or to report a crime. Provides overall safety to USC community. dps.usc.ed