

St. Jerome's University in the University of Waterloo
Department of English
ENGL / WS 325: *Austen*

Winter 2018

Tuesdays & Thursdays 1:00-2:20pm, SJI 3016

Instructor Information

Instructor: Dr. Tristanne Connolly
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Course Description and Objectives

This course is a golden opportunity to consider, nearly in their entirety, the works of an eminently canonical woman author who is equally iconic for her mastery of English prose, her place at the pinnacle of the genre of the novel, and her ubiquity and adoration in the realms of popular culture. Our purpose will be not only to immerse ourselves gloriously in Austen and come to know her more fully in all her facets, ironic and earnest, rebellious and conservative, playful and poignant, trenchantly intelligent and wonderfully frivolous. It will also be to understand more fully, through her, the narrative genre she exemplifies, the historical and cultural context she represents, the many and various themes and issues she explores (such as class and gender, to name only two), and the popular engagement with literature she attracts. While Austen's afterlife in film, fan fiction, and other media is not featured on the reading list, we will discuss these things, at least in general terms, as they arise in relation to her work. For interested students, the term paper offers an opportunity to examine adaptations and other responses to Austen.

Required Texts

- Austen, Jane. *Jane Austen's Manuscript Works*. Ed. Linda Bree, Peter Sabor and Janet Todd. Peterborough: Broadview, 2012.
- Austen, Jane. *Sense and Sensibility*. Ed. Kathleen James-Cavan. Peterborough: Broadview, 2001.
- Austen, Jane. *Pride and Prejudice*. Ed. Robert Irvine. Peterborough: Broadview, 2002.
- Austen, Jane. *Mansfield Park*. Ed. June Sturrock. Peterborough: Broadview, 2001.
- Austen, Jane. *Emma*. Ed. Kristin Flieger Samuelian. Peterborough: Broadview, 2004.
- Austen, Jane. *Northanger Abbey*. Ed. Claire Grogan. 2nd edn. Peterborough: Broadview, 2002.
- Austen, Jane. *Persuasion*. Ed. Linda Bree. Peterborough: Broadview, 1998.

Note: These books can be purchased individually, or in two packages at a discount price.

Course Requirements and Assessment

Please submit assignments in class as hard copies. Only in cases where this is not possible, please place assignments in my drop box at St Jerome's (near the library entrance).

Assessment	Date (see Late Work below)	Weighting
Short essay	4 October / week's grace 11 October	25%
Research essay proposal	25 October / week's grace 1 November	15%
Research essay	22 November / week's grace 29 November	30%
Final examination	TBA	30%

Full information on assignment requirements will be provided in handouts available on LEARN.

For grading criteria and essay writing advice, please see my website.

Brief descriptions of course requirements

Short essay

The short essay will be a minimum 4 full pages in length and will involve close reading; essay questions will be distributed (with permission, students may write on alternative topics).

Research essay proposal

The proposal, minimum 2 full pages, will specify the topic in detail, giving an outline (in paragraphs, not point form) including tentative thesis, organization and bibliography.

Research essay

The research essay will be a minimum 8 full pages, will develop an original thesis and refer to a minimum of 2 scholarly sources (articles or books). Students are invited to invent their own topics; these may range from traditional interpretive approaches, to historical-cultural contextualizations, to investigations of Austen in popular culture.

Final examination

The final examination will be formal and closed-book. It will include an essay question and may include short answers as well. The purpose will be to look back over the course and consider Austen's work as a whole.

Late Work

Assignments handed in on time will receive full written comments and corrections; those handed in after the deadline will receive a grade only. Assignments will be accepted without penalty up to a week after the deadline. After that a flat penalty of 20% will apply, unless there is a valid, documented excuse. Extensions can be granted for good reasons. Regardless of when an assignment is handed in, students can always have additional feedback on their work by dropping by during office hours or making an appointment. All submitted work will be considered finished. In the interest of fairness, there will not be opportunity for rewrites.

Electronic Device Policy

The only reason a laptop or any other electronic device should be on during class is for use in note-taking. To state the obvious: do not "multi-task" in class as it will distract not only yourself but also other students.

Attendance Policy

According to the Undergraduate Calendar, “Students are expected to attend all scheduled sections of the courses in which they have enrolled”. Attendance will be taken in each class. If you arrive late, it is your responsibility, at the end of class, to check that your presence has been counted. If you must miss class for a good reason, please let me know, and the good reason will be taken into account. Obviously, attendance is essential to success in the course; your grasp of the course material, and thus your grade, will suffer if you miss classes.

Class Schedule

The following schedule is flexible. Any changes will be announced in class. Each selection will be discussed on the day listed; try to have the reading done in full for that day. Please bring the text under discussion to class.

Date	Readings / Topics
Thurs 6 Sept	Introduction to the course. “The beautiful Cassandra” (from Volume the First, in <i>Manuscript Works</i>) Also see Jane Austen’s Fiction Manuscripts: http://www.janeausten.ac.uk
Tues 11 Sept	“Frederic and Elfrida”, “Jack and Alice”, “Henry and Eliza” (all from <i>Volume the First in Manuscript Works</i>)
Thurs 13 Sept	“Love and Freindship” (from <i>Volume the Second in Manuscript Works</i>)
Tues 18 Sept	<i>Lady Susan</i> (in <i>Manuscript Works</i>)
Thurs 20 Sept	<i>Lady Susan</i>
Tues 25 Sept	<i>Sense and Sensibility</i>
Thurs 27 Sept	<i>Sense and Sensibility</i>
Tues 2 Oct	<i>Sense and Sensibility</i>
Thurs 4 Oct	Short essay due. <i>Pride and Prejudice</i>
Tues 9 Oct	Study break
Thurs 11 Oct	Short essay: week’s grace deadline. <i>Pride and Prejudice</i>
Tues 16 Oct	<i>Pride and Prejudice</i>
Thurs 18 Oct	<i>Mansfield Park</i>
Tues 23 Oct	<i>Mansfield Park</i>
Thurs 25 Oct	Proposal due. <i>Mansfield Park</i>
Tues 30 Oct	<i>Emma</i>
Thurs 1 Nov	Proposal: week’s grace deadline. <i>Emma</i>
Tues 6 Nov	<i>Emma</i>
Thurs 8 Nov	<i>Northanger Abbey</i>
Tues 13 Nov	<i>Northanger Abbey</i>
Thurs 15 Nov	<i>Northanger Abbey</i>
Tues 20 Nov	<i>Persuasion</i>
Thurs 22 Nov	Research essay due. <i>Persuasion</i>
Tues 27 Nov	<i>Persuasion</i>
Thurs 29 Nov	Research essay: week’s grace deadline. Conclusion of the course; discussion of final exam

Important Information

Academic Integrity: To maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo and its Affiliated and Federated Institutions of Waterloo (AFIW) are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. See the [UWaterloo Academic Integrity](#) webpage for more information.

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for their actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under the [St. Jerome's University Policy on Student Discipline](#). For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to [University of Waterloo Policy 71 - Student Discipline](#). For typical penalties check [Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties](#).

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of their university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read the [St. Jerome's University Policy on Student Petitions and Grievances](#).

Appeals: A decision made or penalty imposed under the St. Jerome's University Policy on Student Petitions and Grievances (other than a petition) or the St. Jerome's University Policy on Student Discipline may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes they have a ground for an appeal should refer to the [St. Jerome's University Policy on Student Appeals](#).

Note for Students with Disabilities: The [AccessAbility Services](#) office, located on the first floor of the Needles Hall extension (1401), collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the AS office at the beginning of each academic term.