

Heather Anne Wozniak
Course Proposal

English Literature 1789-1900: Memories, Monsters, and Machines

Moving from the French Revolution to the twentieth-century, we will focus on changing representations of humanity and human consciousness. From an emphasis on the power of the mind to the power of technology, writers have explored the question of what distinguishes human from fellow human, from unsociable monster, and from automated machine. Our texts will include poetry, essays, novels, and drama. In analyzing how Britons made sense of themselves in the nineteenth century, we shall come to understand the origins of—and some alternatives to—modern Anglo-American traditions and beliefs. Readings will include Wordsworth, Coleridge, Byron, Percy and Mary Shelley, Prince, Hemans, Landon, Dickens, Elizabeth Barrett Browning and Robert Browning, Melville, Christina Rossetti, Tennyson, Wilde, and Stoker.

Students will be responsible for weekly postings on the course website (to reflect on the readings and raise questions for discussion), two short papers, and a final exam.