

**Heather Anne Wozniak**

**SAMPLE SYLLABUS: AUSTEN AND THE 18<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY NOVEL (Seminar)**

**Course Description**

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Jane Austen has occupied an ambiguous status in the history of the novel, sometimes seen as a holdover of eighteenth-century traditions, and other times as a romantic writer *par excellence* or forerunner of domestic realism. In this seminar we will read four of Austen's novels alongside four eighteenth-century texts, allowing us to examine how she echoes and revises her predecessors, as well as how her work is distinctive and reflects her own historical moment.

**Course Requirements**

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1. **Participation** – Attentive listening and active participation is required. You must attend class in order to participate! (15%)
2. **Website Discussion** – You will be required to post a question or comment pertaining to the readings at least once per week on the course website. These comments may be used to guide in-class discussion, and you will find them useful in working out ideas for your paper and presentation. Further instructions on this requirement will be distributed in class. (15%)
3. **Website Project** – Each student will compose a webpage providing resources on one of the assigned texts. The page must include an annotated bibliography of at least three websites on the text, eight scholarly essays or books, and a write-up of the oral presentation (see below). We will spend part of one class session learning how to create these pages, and I am available for technical assistance during office hours. (20%)
4. **Presentation** – Each student will give a 10-minute oral presentation on the text that they have chosen for their Website Project. In this presentation, they should choose one of the articles or book chapters from their bibliography, summarize its argument, and discuss at least one claim that the author makes with which they disagree. (10%)
5. **Papers** – One paper of 10-12 pages, analyzing the relationship between one or more of the eighteenth-century novels and any one of Austen's works (consult with me if you'd like to write on one not on the syllabus). A one-page proposal is due three weeks before the end of the term. I recommend that you write on the same text you research for the Web Project and Presentation. You should pay close attention to textual detail and use very specific passages and phrases to support your arguments. If using outside sources, be sure to indicate clearly which ideas are your own and which are borrowed, and to cite your sources appropriately. (40%)

**Course Readings**

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**The Gothic Tradition**

Ann Radcliffe, *The Romance of the Forest* (1791)

Jane Austen, *Northanger Abbey* (1818)

**Family Matches**

Samuel Richardson, *Clarissa* (1748) (abridged)

Jane Austen, *Pride and Prejudice* (1813)

**Searching for Identity**

Frances Burney, *Evelina* (1778)

Jane Austen, *Mansfield Park* (1814)

**Female Imagination**

Charlotte Lennox, *The Female Quixote* (1752)

Jane Austen, *Emma* (1816)