Course Description
This course provides an overview of the British literary tradition from 1790 to 1900 by looking at representative writers from the Romantic and Victorian periods. Readings will encompass both canonical texts and lesser-known works currently making their way into the canon. The course will consider a wide selection of Romantic and Victorian poetry; a slave narrative; two novels; and a play. In our readings, we will discuss themes of individual identity, childhood, the imagination, good and evil, the supernatural, urbanisation, crime, class and race politics, gender roles, love, desire, family, and friendship. We will consider assigned works within their proper critical, social, and historical contexts, but we will also pay careful attention to content and form as we develop our skills of literary analysis and close reading.