Description:

This course will provide an overview of the British literary tradition from 1650 to 1900 by looking at representative writers from three periods (the Restoration and the Eighteenth Century; the Age of Romanticism; and the Victorian Era). Major authors will be studied alongside lesser-known writers who are currently making their way into the canon. Assigned readings range from the more traditional texts of Milton, Pope, and Wordsworth, to the proto-feminist writings of Mary Wollstonecraft and Christina Rossetti, to the slave narratives of Olaudah Equiano and Mary Prince. This class is at once a history of ideas and a literary survey; we will look at how writers responded to and shaped their social, historical, and political surroundings, and we will discuss the more literary concerns of theme, form, and content.

Reading Material:

A selection of works will be made available on StudiUM.

Evaluation:

Students will submit three writing assignments comprised of short answers, passage analyses, and essays.