

E S379M • Jane Austen on Location

Instructor: Barchas, J.
Unique #: 83320
Semester: Summer 2010
Cross-lists: n/a

Area: I
Flags: n/a
Restrictions: n/a
Computer Instruction: N

Prerequisites: Nine semester hours of coursework in English or rhetoric and writing.

Description: While living at Wadham College in Oxford, this class reads four novels by Jane Austen in the context of the real-life locations that served as settings for her stories and her life. We will read *Sense and Sensibility* (1811), *Pride and Prejudice* (1813), *Persuasion* (1818), and *Northanger Abbey* (1818) and visit country estates and towns featured in these fictions. Like the heroine Elizabeth in *Pride and Prejudice*, we will tour rich country estates and extant eighteenth-century gardens, particularly those of Blenheim, West Wycombe, and Prior Park. We will explore the city of Bath, where Austen and her family lived for many years and which features in *Northanger Abbey*. We will also travel through the Hampshire countryside, where Austen lived much of her life, in order to visit the village of Chawton, where her former home is now a museum, and the Winchester Cathedral, where Austen lies buried. We will end the term with *Persuasion*, a novel that provides us with an alternative judgment of the city of Bath. With many Regency gardens and period architecture still extant in Oxford's own environs, we will spend as much time as possible outdoors -- reconstructing both Austen's real world and her imagined one.

Required Texts:

Sense and Sensibility, Ross Ballaster, ed (Penguin, 2003)
Pride and Prejudice, Vivien Jones, ed. (Penguin, 2003)
Northanger Abbey, Marilyn Butler, ed. (Penguin, 2003)
Persuasion, Gillian Beer, ed. (Penguin, 2003)

Recommended Reading (1 biography and the collected letters)

Park Honan, *Jane Austen: Her Life* (1989), or
Claire Tomalin, *Jane Austen: A Life* (1999), or
Jon Spence, *Becoming Jane Austen* (2007); and
Deirdre Le Faye, editor, *Jane Austen's Letters* (1997)

Requirements & Grading: 3 written research reports (20% each). 1 interpretive essay (20%). Participation and oral report, incl field trips (20%). No final exam. Grades will be based on an A-F system, using pluses & minuses.

Schedule:

Week 1

Sense and Sensibility, Ross Ballaster, ed (Penguin, 2003); field trip to West Wycombe.

Week 2

Pride and Prejudice, Vivien Jones, ed. (Penguin, 2003); field trip to Blenheim

Week 3

Northanger Abbey, Marilyn Butler, ed. (Penguin, 2003); field trip to Bath

Week 4

Persuasion, Gillian Beer, ed. (Penguin, 2003)

Week 5

All the novels in conversation with each other and biographical facts about Austen; field trip to Winchester and Chawton.

Policies:

Honor Code: The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.

Academic Integrity: Any work submitted by a student in this course for academic credit will be the student's own work. For additional information on Academic Integrity, see <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acadint.php>

Documented Disability Statement: The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact Services for Students with Disabilities at 471-6259 (voice) or

232-2937 (video phone) or <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd>

Religious Holy Days: By UT Austin policy, you must notify me of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, I will give you an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time.

Syllabus: The instructor retains the right to vary the syllabus for this class.

Instructor: Prof. Janine Barchas. Office hrs by appointment at Wadham College, Oxford.