Spring 2019 Course Descriptions

Instructor: Susan Egenolf
Course: ENGL 481-901
Title: Art and Literature in the Industrial Age

Description: This course will explore 18th- and 19th-century art and literature and their relationship to industry, including domestic manufacture and farming, as well as trade between the British Empire, the Continent, the near East, and the Western hemisphere. Students will study such entrepreneurs as the potter Josiah Wedgwood, Robert Owen, director of the textile mills at New Lanark, Scotland, and Sir Joseph Banks, botanist, explorer, adviser to the King on the Royal Botanical garden, Kew, and trustee of the British Museum for more than 40 years, in order to understand the reciprocal influence of aesthetics and industry in the 18th and early-19th centuries. We will read novels critiquing the British factory system and its treatment of laborers. We will trace the movement of people and goods to and from Britain, its colonies, and the rest of the world. We will examine both the representations and products of industry, including picturesque tourism (and the subcategory of the subterranean British tour that focused upon descending into mines and quarries), slavery, laborers, and the material objects of industrialization. We will study art and material objects produced during the period.

Proposed Readings: Possible Readings (we will not read all of these texts, and in some cases, we'll read excerpts of the texts):

Joanna Baillie, “Address to a Steam Vessel” and “Lines to a Teapot”
William Blake, Songs of Innocence and Songs of Experience (1789, 1794)
Catherine Cappe, Thoughts on Various Charitable and Other Important Institutions, and on the Best Mode of Conducting Them (1814)
Captain James Cook, A compendious history of Captain Cook's first and second voyages. The first Performed in the Years 1768, 1769, 1770, 1771, in the Endeavour (1784); our edition is called The Journals.
Charles Dickens, Hard Times (1854)
Maria Callcott Graham. Journal of a Residence in Chile (1824).
Elizabeth Hamilton, Cottagers of Glenburnie (1808)
- - -, “The Edinburgh House of Industry” (1809).
“Memoirs and Interesting Adventures of an Embroidered Waistcoat” (1751)
“The Genuine Memoirs and Most Surprising Adventures of a Very Unfortunate Goose-Quill” (1751)
Hannah More and Eaglesfield Smith, “The Sorrows of Yamba”
Hannah More. Cheap Repository Tracts (moral stories written for the laboring class)
Robert Owen, “Address to the Inhabitants of New Lanark” (1816)
Mary Prince. The History of Mary Prince (1831).
The Reports of the Society for Bettering the Condition and Increasing the Comforts of the Poor
Sarah Scott. Millenium Hall (1762).
Charlotte Elizabeth Tonna. Helen Fleetwood (1841).
Various authors: Narratives of Industrial Tourism.
Josiah Wedgwood, “An Address to the Young Inhabitants of the Pottery”
Ann Yearsley, “A Poem on the Inhumanity of the Slave Trade” (1788)
Paintings of John Constable, J.M.W. Turner, Thomas Gainesborough, and others.
Various Critical Texts