

**PAPER #1 (15%)**  
**Compare/Contrast Two Romantic Writers**  
*Due Wed 3/4*

For your first paper, you will write a 1000 word (minimum) compare/contrast essay, analyzing the works of two Romantic writers we have looked at in class.

- First, choose the two writers you'd most like to focus on. Preferably it should be two that you personally find interesting, though you don't necessarily have to *like* their works — the important thing is that you have something to say about them. Your selection of writers includes everyone we are looking at in class between Weeks 1 and 5 on the schedule (so, Blake through Keats).
- Narrow the writers' work down to between 1 and 3 poems per author. Try to keep your paper focused rather than attempting to explore the writers' entire body of work.
  - If you choose a novelist like Jane Austen or Mary Shelley, you can attempt to write about an entire book, or you can just stay focused on a specific portion of their books.
- While your scope of choices is limited just to authors we're looking at in class, you are *not* limited only to works we have looked at in class. So, for instance, if you choose Samuel Coleridge as one of your authors, you are not obligated to write about *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*; you can look at some of his other works instead, if you'd prefer.

Compare and contrast the works of these two authors in a well-organized essay, examining similarities and differences in their **style, structure, imagery and themes**. Frame your analysis within the context of the Romantic Era as a whole, paying close attention to how both authors were influenced by, and also helped influence, the artistic trends of the era.

In addition to the works you are analyzing, you must include a minimum of **3 outside sources** to help support your analysis. These sources should be authoritative and professional, and can include anything from biographies about the authors' lives to professional literary criticism of their work.

- I recommend using the HCC library databases (and also the *actual* library) to find good sources. The librarians are always happy to help you research. If you don't know how to access or use the online library databases, just ask. I may go over it in class if enough people ask.
- You are not limited to only finding your sources from the HCC library, however. Just make sure that whatever other sources you find are professional & authoritative; don't use any old random blog you stumbled upon somewhere.
- Study-helper websites such as SparkNotes, Shmoop, eNotes, or LitCharts cannot be used as sources. However, it's okay if you skim through them to look for inspiration on what to write about, and use their suggestions for further reading to find good sources.
- Likewise, you can't use Wikipedia as a source. But searching through the Wikipedia footnotes is often a useful way of finding good sources.

**REQUIREMENTS FOR THE FINAL PAPER**

- An introduction with a **clear thesis statement**, telling me which two authors you are looking at and the overall topics you are planning to discuss.

- Incorporate several **direct quotes**, both from the authors' works (the "primary sources") and from your 3 outside sources (the "secondary sources"). This paper should feature many direct quotes from the authors' works, since direct quotes are essential to making a strong argument in literary criticism. However, there isn't a specific number of quotes I'm looking for (about 3-4 per page is a good average, as long as the quotes aren't too long.)
- All of your quotes and paraphrased information should be correctly cited in **MLA format**.
- Include a properly formatted **MLA Works Cited Page** at the end. This should list *all* of the sources you reference in the paper. Each poem should be listed as a separate source.
  - And remember, anything that did not come out of your own head should be cited in the paper and also listed on your works cited page.
- 1000 words (minimum): Times New Roman, 12 pt. font, double spaced
- Include an MLA header on the first page, and page numbers in the top right corner
- **DO NOT PLAGIARIZE.** If you use an author's exact words, you must put them in quotation marks and cite your source. Otherwise, you must paraphrase. Both direct quotes and paraphrases should be cited.

#### **DUE DATES (REQUIRED):**

- You must submit a **rough draft** on Canvas no later than **Wed 2/26**.
- You must submit **both an online and hard copy of your final paper** by **Wed 3/4**.
  - The online copy helps me check your originality and word count. You will submit it online through the Turnitin.com assignment link. The hard copy is what I will actually mark up. If you aren't going to be in class on the day it's due, you still must make sure I get a copy of your paper on time (either physical or electronic). Anyone turning in a paper hours after class is over will have late points deducted. After midnight, I will not accept any papers at all, and you will receive an automatic zero for the assignment.

#### **OTHER DUE DATES (OPTIONAL):**

- You may email an electronic copy of your rough draft any time. However, I will not look at any rough drafts sent to me less than 24 hours before the final due date. And depending on the load of rough drafts I receive, I can't guarantee I will get around to looking at yours -- so send it early, if you really want my feedback!
- If you are dissatisfied with your grade, you may revise your paper again and turn it in to me any time before the end of the semester (5/17). You will also need to give me back the original final draft that I marked up, so that I can compare the two. How much work you put into revising your paper and following my comments will determine how much your grade on the paper improves.