

Romanticism and India

ENG 4214H, Winter 2009

Friday 12:00-3:00, Room 618A, Jackman Humanities Building

Professor: Dan White

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Course Focus: This seminar will treat Romantic-era cultural engagements between Britain and India. We will consider poetry, fiction, drama, travel literature, and painting by Britons, Eurasians, and Indians such as William Jones, Robert Southey, Sydney Owenson, P.B. Shelley, Henry Derozio, and Abu Talib Khan. Our work with primary sources will be supplemented by focused critical and theoretical readings, allowing us to explore questions involving imperialism, orientalism, religious difference, and the production of Romantic cultures in the context of the early British Empire in India.

Method of Evaluation: Research paper (50%, 20 pp.), abstract and bibliography (10%), mini-conference presentation (20%, 15 minutes followed by q & a), class participation (20%).

Texts: The following texts are available for purchase at the Bob Miller Book Room (180 Bloor Street West, Lower Concourse, 416-922-3557).

Hamilton, Elizabeth. *Translation of the Letters of a Hindoo Rajah*. Ed. Pamela Perkins and Shannon Russell. Peterborough: Broadview, 1999.

Khan, Abu Talib. *The Letters of Mirza Abu Taleb Khan*. Ed. Daniel O'Quinn. Peterborough: Broadview, 2008.

Owenson, Sydney. *The Missionary: An Indian Tale*. Ed. Julia M. Wright. Peterborough: Broadview, 2002.

Said, Edward. *Orientalism*. New York: Vintage, 1979.

Scott, Walter. *Chronicles of the Canongate*. New York: Penguin Classics, 2003.

Shelley, P.B. *Shelley's Poetry and Prose*. Ed. Donald H. Reiman and Neil Fraistat. 2nd edn. New York: Norton, 2002.

Friday, January 9

Introduction

James Rennell, "A General View of the principal Roads and Divisions of Hindoostan," from *Memoir of a Map of Hindoostan* (1788)

Map, "The World (Mercator)," from *The World-Wide Atlas of Modern Geography* (1899)

Friday, January 16

William Jones, "A Discourse on the Institution of a Society, for Inquiring into the History, Civil and Natural, the Antiquities, Arts, Sciences, and Literature, of Asia" (1784), "The Second Anniversary Discourse, Delivered 24th February, 1785," and "A Hymn to Narayena" (1785) [Portal]

Edward Moor, from *The Hindu Pantheon*, Plate 7 (Narayana) (1810) [Portal]
Edmund Burke, from *Speeches on the Opening of the Impeachment of Warren Hastings*,
15, 16, and 18 February 1788 [Portal]
Thomas Macaulay, *Minute on Indian Education* (1835) [Portal]

- P.J. Marshall, “The British in Asia: Trade to Dominion, 1700-1765” [Portal]
- Rajat Kanta Ray, “Indian Society and the Establishment of British Supremacy, 1765-1818” [Portal]

Friday, January 23

William Jones (trans.), *Sacontalá; or, The Fatal Ring* (1789), by Kalidasa [Portal]
Mariana Starke, *The Sword of Peace; or, a Voyage of Love* (1788) [Portal]

- Edward Said, Introduction to *Orientalism*
- Dennis Porter, “*Orientalism* and its Problems” in *Colonial Discourse and Post-Colonial Theory: A Reader* [Portal]

Friday, January 30

Phebe Gibbes, *Hartly House, Calcutta* (1789)
Thomas and William Daniell, aquatints from *Oriental Scenery* (1795-1808) and *A Picturesque Voyage to India by the Way of China* (1810) [Portal]

- Michael J. Franklin, Introduction to *Hartly House, Calcutta* (Oxford)

Friday, February 6

Elizabeth Hamilton, *Translation of the Letters of a Hindoo Rajah* (1796)

- Siraj Ahmed, “‘The Pure Soil of Universal Benevolence’: The Rule of Property and the Rise of an Imperial Ideology in the 1790s,” in *Eighteenth-Century Ireland* [Portal]

Friday, February 13

Abu Talib Khan, from *Travels of Mirza Abu Taleb Khan* (1810), Chapters 1, 6, 8-10, 12-17, 19-20
Eliza Fay, from *Original Letters from India* (1817) [Portal]

- Daniel O’Quinn, Introduction to *Travels of Mirza Abu Taleb Khan* (Broadview)

Friday, February 20: No Class (Reading Week)

Friday, February 27

Robert Southey, *The Curse of Kehama* (1810) [Portal]

- Daniel E. White, “English Books and Hindu Idols: Evangelicalism and the Intense Objectivism of Robert Southey” (draft chapter) [Portal]

Wednesday, March 4 (12:00-3:00)

Sydney Owenson, *The Missionary* (1811)

- Balachandra Rajan, “Feminizing the Feminine: Early Women Writers on India,” in *Romanticism, Race, and Imperial Culture, 1780-1834*

Friday, March 13

P.B. Shelley, *Alastor* (1816)

Henry Derozio, *The Fakeer of Jungheera, A Metrical Tale* (1828) [Portal]

- Saree Makdisi, “Versions of the East: Byron, Shelley and the Orient,” in *Romanticism, Race, and Imperial Culture, 1780-1834*

Abstract and bibliography due (except for those who will present on readings for March 13 or 20)

Friday, March 20

Walter Scott, “The Surgeon’s Daughter” (1827)

Rammohun Roy, “Remarks on the Settlement in India by Europeans” (1832) [Portal]

- Claire Lamont, “Scott and Eighteenth-Century Imperialism: India and the Scottish Highlands,” in *Configuring Romanticism*

Abstract and bibliography due (for those who will present on readings for March 13 or 20)

Friday, March 27, Mini-Conference

Session 1

Friday, April 3, Mini-Conference

Session 2

Wednesday, April 15, Research Papers Due in English Office by Noon