Course Focus: From the “wild green landscape” of Wordsworth’s Lake District and the enclosed commons of John Clare’s Helpston to Byron’s “deep and dark blue ocean” and the infinite world of Blake’s grain of sand, the scale of Romantic writing ranges from an intense interest in the local to an expansive embrace of the global. In recent years, historicist critics have increasingly tried to understand Romantic literature as part of a transoceania imperial culture in circulation. At the same time, among the most exciting developments within colonial and postcolonial studies has been the concerted effort to see beyond the terms of modular nationalism in the definition of national cultures under conditions of early globalization. In this course, we will begin with the premise that the local and the global interpenetrate. Addressing theories of space, time, cosmopolitanism, and modernity, we will bring our attention to bear on Romantic poetry and prose that imagines the global in the local and engages with the interactions between local lives, lands, commodities, and temporalities that constitute the global. We will read canonical works along with those of lesser-known figures in India who wrote for audiences in both Calcutta and London.

Method of Evaluation: Research paper (50%, 18-20 pp.), abstract and bibliography (10%), mini-conference presentation (20%, 18-20 minutes followed by q & a), class participation (20%).

Texts: The following texts are available for purchase at the University of Toronto Bookstore (214 College Street, 416-640-7900). All primary sources not in the following texts, and all secondary sources, are available in .pdf on the course portal under “Course Materials.”


January 8

Introduction
January 15


Coleridge, “The Rime of the Ancient Mariner” (1817) [portal]

- Tony Ballantyne, “Empire, Knowledge and Culture: From Proto-Globalization to Modern Globalization,” from *Globalization in World History*

January 22

Wordsworth, *The Prelude* (1805), Books 1, 2, 6, 7, 11, 12, 13

- Saree Makdisi, “Home Imperial: Wordsworth’s London and the Spot of Time,” from *Romantic Imperialism: Universal Empire and the Culture of Modernity*
- Michel de Certeau, “Walking in the City,” from *The Practice of Everyday Life*

January 29

Anna Letitia Barbauld, “Eighteen Hundred and Eleven, a Poem” [portal]

Reviews of “Eighteen Hundred and Eleven” in *The Monthly Review* and *Quarterly Review* [portal]

Charlotte Smith, “Beachy Head” [portal]

- Anthony Giddens, “Modernity, Time, and Space” and “Disembedding,” from *The Consequences of Modernity*

February 5


- Raymond Williams, “Enclosures, Commons and Communities” and “The Green Language,” from *The Country and the City*
- John Barrell, from “The Sense of Place in the Poetry of John Clare,” from *The Idea of Landscape and the Sense of Place: An Approach to the Poetry of John Clare*

February 12

Percy Bysshe Shelley, *Prometheus Unbound*

- Arthur Mitzman, “Introduction: The Other Prometheus,” from *Prometheus Revisited: The Quest for Global Justice in the Twenty-First Century*
February 19: No Class (Reading Week)

February 26

Mary Shelley, *The Last Man*

- Alan Bewell, “‘All the World Has the Plague’: Mary Shelley’s *The Last Man*,” from *Romanticism and Colonial Disease*

March 5

Thomas De Quincey, *Confessions of an English Opium-Eater*

- Sanjay Krishnan, “Opium Confessions: Narcotic, Commodity, and the Malay Amuk,” from *Reading the Global: Troubling Perspectives on Britain’s Empire in Asia*

March 12

Byron, from *Don Juan*, Dedication, Cantos I-V

- Kirsten Daly, “Worlds Beyond England: *Don Juan* and the Legacy of Enlightenment Cosmopolitanism”

Abstract and bibliography due (except for those who will present on readings for March 12 or 19)

March 19

Henry Louis Vivian Derozio, *Don Juanics* [portal]
James Atkinson, *The City of Palaces* [portal]
Selections from *The Bengal Annual* (1830-36) [portal]
*Calcutta Morning Post*, 29 January 1813, front page [portal]

- Rosinka Chaudhuri, Introduction to *Derozio, Poet of India*
- Dipesh Chakrabarty, “Introduction: The Idea of Provincializing Europe,” from *Provincializing Europe: Postcolonial Thought and Historical Difference*

Abstract and bibliography due for those who will present on readings for March 12 or 19

March 26, Mini-Conference

Session 1

April 2, Mini-Conference

Session 2

Tuesday, April 9, 12:00 p.m., Research Papers Due in English Office