

English 801: Romantic Futures

Fall 2007 Mondays 1-3:30 PM
HCW 7105

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PACKET (See the syllabus for full list of readings for each session)

1. Contingency, Probability, Revolution and Romantic Futures

9/10: Introduction:

Hacking, *Taming of Chance*. "The Argument" 1-10
Hacking *Emergence of Probability*. "Table of contents"
Daston, *Empire of Chance*: 1-13 on classical probability
Koselleck, *Futures Past*. 1-5, 17-25 and 58-64.
Balfour. *Rhetoric of Romantic Prophecy* 1-18
Coleridge. *Rime of the Ancient Mariner*
Moore. *Lalla Rookh*.

9/24: Kant and Marx

Kant, "What Is Enlightenment?" 13-23 and "Toward Perpetual Peace" 313-351, from *Practical Philosophy* and "An Old Question Raised Again: Is the Human Race Constantly Progressing?" (297-309), from *Religion and Rational Theology*. Ed. Allen Wood (Cambridge, 1996).

On Kant: Laursen, "The Subversive Kant" in *What is Enlightenment?* 253-69 and Adorno, "Antithesis" 27-28 from *Minima Moralia*

2. Futurity and Prophecy

10/1: Burke and Barbauld

Burke: 145-286 from *Reflections on the Revolution in France*

Barbauld, *1811* (160-173) and "Sins of Government, Sins of the Nation" (297-320) in *Anna Letitia Barbauld: Selected Poetry and Prose*. Ed. McCarthy and Kraft.

Re Barbauld: William Levine, "The Eighteenth-Century Jeremiad and Progress-Piece Tradition in Anna Barbauld's 'Eighteen Hundred and Eleven,'" *Women's Writing* 12.2 (November 2005): 177-186.

Re Burke and Barbauld: [this reading is one we wish to "carry" through several sessions]
Walter Benjamin, "N" [On the Theory of Knowledge, Theory of Progress], from *The Arcades Project*, 456-88 and "Theses on the Philosophy of History"

10/8: Wordsworth

On Wordsworth: Balfour, 19-27 from *Rhetoric of Romantic Prophecy*; Koselleck, "Historia Magistra Vitae" (26-42) from *Futures Past*

10/15: Blake

On Blake: Balfour, *Rhetoric* 127-46

10/22: Percy Shelley

On PBS: Adorno "All the world's not a stage" *MM* 143-5

Adorno "Bequest" *MM* 150-52 [topic of dialectic]

Adorno, "Late extra" *MM* 231-38 [against idea of the new and thus of possibility, futurity]

3. Negative Futures

10/29: Mary Shelley

On M. Shelley: Deleuze (50-53) from *Difference and Repetition*; Koselleck, "Chance as a Motivational Trace in Historical Writing" (115-27) from *Futures Past*.

11/5: Germaine de Stael

Re Stael: from Adorno, *Minima Moralia: Le Bourgeois Revenant*, Protection, Help and counsel, On the dialectic of tax, Proprietary Rights 33-38; and Since I set eyes on him 95-96

11/12: Charlotte Smith

Beachy Head, from *Poems of Charlotte Smith*, 217-47

Re Smith: Adorno, "Mammoth" 115-16 from *Minima Moralia*; from Smith's *Minor Morals* (99-115); Cuvier, via Rudwick's *Georges Cuvier, Fossil Bones, and Geological Catastrophes* (7-9 and 18-24); Hutton, from vol. 1, *Theory of the Earth* (175-200, 371-373, and 282-87); Koselleck, "Representation, Event and Structure" (105-115) from *Futures Past*; and Baucom, "The Fact of History" from *Specters of the Atlantic* (213-41).

4. Future of the Human and Non-Human

11/19: Erasmus Darwin

Darwin, "*The Loves of the Plants*" from *The Botanic Garden, Part II*; and "Of Generation," from *Zoonomia* (Bibliobazaar, 2007) (431-477).

Re Darwin: Michel Foucault, "Classifying" from *The Order of Things* (125-165) and "Spaces and Classes" from *Birth of the Clinic* (3-21)

Re Darwin: Pheng Cheah, from *Spectral Nationality* 25-59 [organicism and reason]

11/26: Olaudah Equiano

Re Equiano: Ian Baucom, 3-31; 56-66, 116-17, and 123-40, from *Specters of the Atlantic* and Barbauld, *Epistle to William Wilberforce, Esq. On the Rejection of the Bill for Abolishing the Slave Trade* (121-127) in *Barbauld: Selected Poetry and Prose*. Ed. McCarthy and Kraft.

Further Thoughts toward the Future of Romanticism

Adorno, from *Negative Dialectics* (3-57).

Kant, "On the Common Saying..." (273-310) from Kant, *Practical Philosophy*, ed. Gregor and Wood (1996).

Bickerstaff, *The Padlock* [1768], rpt in *Slavery, Abolition and Emancipation, vol. 5: Drama*. Ed. Jeffrey Cox. (London: Pickering and Chatto, 1999), 71-107.