Course Syllabus

I. Course Purpose and Objectives
This course focuses on literary work by female authors spanning the period 1800-1847. After introducing students to elemental aspects of the so-called “rise of the novel”–the most important form of fiction in the nineteenth century–and the attendant rise of literacy and the formation of a new, predominantly middle-class literary audience, it will delve into issues of genre as these emerge in our selected texts: the historical novel, satire and the gothic in the Irish colonial context Maria Edgeworth’s case, the domestic novel and the marriage plot in that of Jane Austen, the novel of female education and the Gothic in Charlotte Brontë. We will discuss such generic constructs in relation to questions of social and political issues that mark the history of the Anglophone world in the 19th century: “domestic” colonialism and the economic exploitation of Ireland, class mobility and class alliance in England, the place of women, women’s rights and femininity in middle-class culture, slavery and abolitionism.

II. Learning Outcomes
Students are expected to be able to demonstrate their ability to engage critically with primary texts in terms of form, style, connotation and contextual significance; to synthesize texts and critical/theoretical contexts (depending on the particular course, this may include a range of theoretical perspectives); and to develop the structural, argumentative and theoretical skills necessary for comparative textual examination.

III. Course Grading and Evaluation
Students will be evaluated on the basis of a mid-term examination (30%), a reading response assignment (20%) and a final examination (50%).
- The mid-term exam may involve questions on introductory lecture material and will involve short essays on the texts studied.
- Reading response assignments must be between 800-1,000 words (approx. 3-4 pages typed). Topics for these assignments (one sheet of assignment topics for every novel) will be handed out in advance and will be due in class two weeks from the day received.
- The final examination will involve longer essay questions on the primary texts studied. Take-home work, specifically the reading-response assignment, must be typed and should conform to MLA format if it makes use of outside (critical sources). Bear in mind that plagiarism is a very serious form of academic misconduct and will be dealt with according to the relevant university and Department regulations.

IV. Class Policies
Discussion of the texts and performance in the exams requires that you keep pace with each session’s reading assignments. Failure to do so will negatively affect your overall performance in the course. Class attendance is required according to university policy. It is
essential that you are punctual and consistent. Habitual tardiness will not be tolerated; if there is a serious reason why you have to come slightly late or leave slightly early, you must inform the instructor in advance. If you miss above a certain number of classes, you may be advised to withdraw or be told to expect a failing grade in the course. All take-home work for the course must be handed in within the deadlines provided.

V. Required Texts
  Price at bookdepository.com: 5.26 euro
  Price at bookdepository.com: 6.84 euro
  Price at bookdepository.com: 7.81 euro
- Course packet

* Purchasing the books (in the editions specified) is your own responsibility; no order has been placed in any bookstore. My personal recommendation is obtaining them at bookdepository.com, as they charge no delivery fee, but you may obtain them wherever you wish. In the case of our first novel, *Castle Rackrent*, an (unbound) photocopy will be available for those who cannot obtain the book on time (by the second week of class), in the same store where the course packets are (Unique Copy Center).

Course packets are available at Unique Copy Center, 127 Larnacos Ave., Phone#: 22462932, email: savvia@mmprintings.com.cy. Please obtain your copy right away!

VI. Relevant Sources on Short-term Loan
VII. Class and Reading Schedule

Note: I expect to be absent for conferences on October 5-7 and November 1-6, so classes for those sessions will have to be rescheduled.

Tuesday, September 4
Course Introduction

Friday, September 7
Ian Watt continued
J. Paul Hunter, “What was New about the Novel?”, *Before Novels*, pp. 23-25

Tuesday, September 11
Maria Edgeworth, *Castle Rackrent* (1800)

Friday, September 14
Edgeworth, *Castle Rackrent*

Tuesday, September 18
Edgeworth, *Castle Rackrent*

Friday, September 21
Edgeworth, *Castle Rackrent*
Daniel Hack, “*Castle Rackrent* and Anglo-Irish Union”, pp. 145-164

Tuesday, September 25
Edgeworth, *Castle Rackrent*

Friday, September 28
Edgeworth, *Castle Rackrent*
Mary Jean Corbett, “Another Tale to Tell: Postcolonial Theory and the Case of *Castle Rackrent*”, p. 1-11

Tuesday, October 2
Jane Austen, *Emma* (1815)
Williams, *The English Novel*, pp. 9-27

Friday, October 5
Austen, *Emma*
No Class-Absence at Conference
Class will be remade, preferably on Wednesday, September 19

Tuesday, October 9
Austen, *Emma*

**Friday, October 12**
Austen, *Emma*

**Tuesday, October 16**
Austen, *Emma*
Nancy Armstrong, “The Rise of the Domestic Woman”, *Desire and Domestic Fiction* pp. 69-81

**Friday, October 19**
Austen, *Emma*

**Tuesday, October 23**
Austen, *Emma*
Patricia Meyer Spacks, *Gossip*, pp. 165-170

**Friday, October 26**
Austen, *Emma*

**Tuesday, October 30**
Mid-term Exam

**Friday, November 2**
Charlotte Brontë, *Jane Eyre* (1847)
No class-Absence at Conference
Class will be remade

**Tuesday, November 6**
Brontë, *Jane Eyre*
No class-Absence at Conference
Class will be remade

**Friday, November 9**
Brontë, *Jane Eyre*
Robert B. Heilman, “Charlotte Brontë’s ‘New’ Gothic”, pp. 165-180

**Tuesday, November 13**
Brontë, *Jane Eyre*
Sandra Gilbert and Susan Gubar, “Plain Jane’s Progress,” pp. 336-351

**Friday, November 16**
Brontë, *Jane Eyre*
Sandra Gilbert and Susan Gubar, “Plain Jane’s Progress,” pp. 351-371

**Tuesday, November 20**
Brontë, *Jane Eyre*
Friday, November 23
Brontë, *Jane Eyre*
There is a chance this class will be missed due to participation in hiring committee. Students will be duly informed and the class will be remade if missed.

Tuesday, November 27
Brontë, *Jane Eyre*
Lisa Sternlich, “Hazarding Confidences,” pp. 452-479

Friday, November 30
Brontë, *Jane Eyre*

*Final Exam according to University Examination Schedule*