

**General Education Course Information Sheet**  
*Please submit this sheet for each proposed course*

Department & Course Number      English 98T  
 Course Title                              Sedition! Romantic Literature at the Limits of the Law

1 Check the recommended GE foundation area(s) and subgroups(s) for this course

**Foundations of the Arts and Humanities**

- Literary and Cultural Analysis ✓  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Philosophic and Linguistic Analysis \_\_\_\_\_
- Visual and Performance Arts Analysis and Practice \_\_\_\_\_

**Foundations of Society and Culture**

- Historical Analysis \_\_\_\_\_
- Social Analysis \_\_\_\_\_

**Foundations of Scientific Inquiry**

- Physical Science \_\_\_\_\_  
     *With Laboratory or Demonstration Component must be 5 units  
     (or more)*
- Life Science \_\_\_\_\_  
     *With Laboratory or Demonstration Component must be 5 units  
     (or more)*

2. Briefly describe the rationale for assignment to foundation area(s) and subgroup(s) chosen.

The course examines the political contexts of British Romantic literature. Students will  
read a number of important literary texts and discuss the way that literature interacted with  
the law.

3. List faculty member(s) and teaching fellow who will serve as instructor (give academic rank):

Christopher Mott; Sr. Continuing Lecturer; Ian Newman, teaching fellow

4. Indicate what quarter you plan to teach this course:

2012-2013      Winter    ✓         Spring \_\_\_\_\_

5. GE Course units         5   

6. Please present concise arguments for the GE principles applicable to this course.

General Knowledge      Student will learn how to apply general humanities methods, with an emphasis on close reading, historical analysis and cultural analysis to the particular context of Romantic-period literature.

Integrative Learning      Students will consider the integration of legal and literary discourses and will ask how each responds to the same texts.

- |                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
|                                  |  |
| □ Ethical Implications           | Students will explore the social consequences of aesthetic values, and will be encouraged to understand the ways in which legal systems inhibit and enable the development of political systems.                               |
| □ Cultural Diversity             | Students will examine the emergent discourses of race and empire and will consider how these were used to suppress ideas that challenged hegemonic social structures.  |
| □ Critical Thinking              | Students will be asked to assess the effectiveness of the legal arguments which sought to ban literary works, and the arguments in their defence.  |
| □ Rhetorical Effectiveness       | Students will study the rhetoric of romantic-period literature and argumentation and will be required to present their own ideas in both oral and written media in a conference presentation and a research paper.             |
| □ Problem-solving                | Students will consider the differing nature of “evidence” in legal and literary fields, and will be asked to consider what evidence best supports their own arguments.   |
| □ Library & Information Literacy | Students will learn how to use a wide variety of online resources relevant to humanities subjects. They will consider too, the nature of the archive and discuss the problems and advantages of digital and physical archives. |

<b>(A) STUDENT CONTACT PER WEEK</b>		
1. Seminar:	3	(hours)
<b>(A) TOTAL student contact per week</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>(HOURS)</b>

<b>(B) OUT-OF-CLASS HOURS PER WEEK (if not applicable write N/A)</b>		
1. General Review & Preparation:	_____	(hours)
2. Reading	<u>8</u>	(hours)
3. Group Projects:	<u>1</u>	(hours)
4. Preparation for Quizzes & Exams:	_____	(hours)
5. Information Literacy Exercises:	_____	(hours)
6. Written Assignments:	<u>2</u>	(hours)
7. Research Activity:	<u>1</u>	(hours)
<b>(B) TOTAL Out-of-class time per week</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>(HOURS)</b>

**GRAND TOTAL (A) + (B) must equal 15 hours/week**      \_\_\_\_\_ 15 \_\_\_\_\_

English 98T  
 Instructor: Ian Newman  
 Room: TBD

### **Sedition! Romantic Literature at the Limits of the Law**

“Poets are the unacknowledged Legislators of the World.”

(-- Percy Bysshe Shelley)

#### Contact Information

Email: [inewman@humnet.ucla.edu](mailto:inewman@humnet.ucla.edu)

Mailbox: Humanities 149

Office Hours: TR 2:00-3:00 (and by appointment); held in Humanities A97

#### **Required Readings:**

Edmund Burke: *Reflections on the Revolution in France*

Thomas Paine, *The Rights of Man*

Elizabeth Inchbald, *Nature and Art*

William Godwin, *Caleb Williams*

Additional materials will be provided as digital downloads on the course website.

This seminar will consider the relationship between literature, politics, and the law by examining what ideas were legally impermissible for Romantic-period writers. We will read the most controversial texts of the day, many of which faced prosecution of one form or another, and ask why these texts were considered particularly dangerous. We will interrogate the legal distinctions between obscenity, libel, sedition, and treason, and ask what strategies writers and publishers employed to avoid prosecution. We will consider why women were so rarely prosecuted for these crimes, what the status of women’s writing was in radical culture, and how women were depicted in seditious texts and legal proceedings. Finally, we will discuss how the law shaped the literary field and, conversely, how literature shaped the law.

In addition to the weekly reading schedule for each class, participants will chose a “seditious publication” which was the subject of a state trial, for which they will be responsible throughout the course. Each week we will examine an online research tool that might help to understand the legal implications of these texts. Participants will gather information on their chosen text, and at the end of the course will deliver a short presentation on their text to explain why was it outlawed, and how the work, and the trial were understood in the popular imagination.

Students will have a chance to use the digital tools in class group work. You are therefore strongly encouraged to bring a computer to the classroom. If you don’t have a laptop or tablet computer, laptops are available to rent from the library.

#### **Course Requirements:**

Thorough reading and preparation of the texts before meetings

Enthusiastic participation in class discussions

Regular meetings with instructor during office hours

Thesis and outline for first paper  
 Paper one  
 One 10-minute conference paper  
 Final paper, based on conference paper

**Grading:**

Participation in class discussion	25%
Thesis and outline	10%
First Paper (7 pages)	20%
Conference Presentation	10%
Final Paper (7 pages)	35%

**WEEK ONE 4/2/2013**

## TEXTS

Poetry from James Hartley, *History of the Westminster Elections*  
 Songs of Captain Charles Morris  
 "Proclamation For the Encouragement of Piety and Virtue, and for the Preventing and Punishing of Vice, Profaneness and Immorality."

## DIGITAL RESEARCH TOOL

Howell, T.B. *A Complete Collection of State Trials and Proceedings for High Treason and Other Crimes and Misdemeanors From The Earliest Period to The Present Time.*  
 'The Making of Modern Law: Trials, 1600-1926'.

**WEEK TWO 4/9/2013**

## TEXTS

Edmund Burke: *Reflections on the Revolution in France*

## DIGITAL RESEARCH TOOL

Evernote

## ASSIGNMENT DUE

Selection of seditious text, chosen from Howell's *State Trials*, submitted for approval.

**WEEK THREE 4/16/2013**

## TEXTS

Thomas Paine, *The Rights of Man – Part One*  
 May 1792, Royal Proclamation Against Seditious Writings  
 The Whole Proceedings of the Trial Against Thomas Paine

## DIGITAL RESEARCH TOOL

British Museum Catalogue of Prints and Drawings  
[http://www.britishmuseum.org/research/search\\_the\\_collection\\_database.aspx](http://www.britishmuseum.org/research/search_the_collection_database.aspx)

**WEEK FOUR 4/23/2013**

## TEXTS

William Godwin, *Caleb Williams*

## DIGITAL RESEARCH TOOL

Old Bailey Online  
<http://www.oldbaileyonline.org/>

## ASSIGNMENT

First paper thesis statements and outlines due in class

**WEEK FIVE 4/30/2013**

Visit to YRL Special Collections

## TEXTS

Thomas Spence, *Pig's Meat*

## DIGITAL RESEARCH TOOL

Eighteenth-Century Collections Online

<http://find.galegroup.com/ecco/start.do?prodId=ECCO&userGroupName=uclosangeles>**WEEK SIX 5/7/2013**

## TEXTS

Daniel Isaac Eaton: Politics for the People

The Trial of Daniel Isaac Eaton, for Publishing a Supposed Libel

## ONLINE TOOL

17th-18th Century Burney Collection newspapers

<http://find.galegroup.com/bncn/start.do?prodId=BBCN&userGroupName=uclosangeles>**\*\*\* FIRST PAPER DUE \*\*\*****WEEK SEVEN 5/14/2013**

## TEXTS

John Thelwall: *The Tribune*

The Trial of John Thelwall for High Treason

## DIGITAL RESEARCH TOOL

National Archives online catalogue; Access to Archives

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/catalogue/><http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/a2a/>**WEEK EIGHT 5/21/2013**

## TEXTS

Elizabeth Inchbald, *Nature and Art*

Letters between Elizabeth Inchbald and William Godwin

## DIGITAL RESEARCH TOOL

Google Books

<http://books.google.com/>**WEEK NINE 5/28/2013**

## TEXTS

Percy Bysshe Shelley, *Queen Mab*Percy Bysshe Shelley, *Defence of Poetry*

## DIGITAL RESEARCH TOOL

British Library Catalogue

[http://explore.bl.uk/primo\\_library/libweb/action/search.do?vid=BLVU1](http://explore.bl.uk/primo_library/libweb/action/search.do?vid=BLVU1)**WEEK TEN 6/4/2013**

CONFERENCE: Seditious Writing

**FINAL PAPER: Due 6/11/2013**

# New Course Proposal

English 98T  
Sedition! Romantic Literature at Limits of Law

Course Number English 98T

Title Sedition! Romantic Literature at Limits of Law

Short Title RMNTC LIT LIMIT-LAW

Units Fixed: 5

Grading Basis Letter grade only

Instructional Format Seminar - 3 hours per week

TIE Code SEMT - Seminar (Topical) [T]

GE Requirement Yes

Major or Minor No

Requirement

Requisites Satisfaction of entry-level writing requirement. Freshmen and sophomores preferred.

Course Description Seminar, three hours. Enforced requisite: satisfaction of Entry-Level Writing requirement. Freshmen/sophomores preferred. Examination of banned texts from Britain in 1790s, alongside legal documents, parliamentary proceedings, and trial literature. Consideration of how literature engages with, and falls foul of, state-approved standards of admissible ideas in Romantic period. Letter grading.

Justification Part of the series of seminars offered through the Collegium of University Teaching Fellows.

Syllabus File [English 98T syllabus.pdf](#) was previously uploaded. You may view the file by clicking on the file name.

Supplemental Information Dr. Christopher Mott is the faculty mentor for this seminar.

Grading Structure Participation in class discussion 25%

Thesis and outline 10%

First Paper (7 pages) 20%

Conference Presentation 10%

Final Paper (7 pages) 35%

Effective Date Winter 2013

Discontinue Summer 1 2013

Date

Instructor

Name

Title

Ian Newman

Teaching Fellow

Quarters Taught

Fall

Winter

Spring

Summer

<a href="#">Department</a>	English	
<a href="#">Contact</a>	Name	E-mail
<a href="#">Routing Help</a>	CATHERINE GENTILE	cgentile@oid.ucla.edu

## ROUTING STATUS

Role: Registrar's Office

Status: Processing Completed

Role: Registrar's Publications Office - Hennig, Leann Jean (lhennig@registrar.ucla.edu) - 56704

Status: Added to SRS on 7/23/2012 11:33:24 AM

Changes: Title, Description

Comments: Edited course description into official version; corrected title.

Role: Registrar's Scheduling Office - Thomson, Douglas N (dthomson@registrar.ucla.edu) - 51441

Status: Added to SRS on 7/15/2012 4:43:48 PM

Changes: Short Title

Comments: No Comments

Role: FEC School Coordinator - Castillo, Myrna Dee Figurac (mcastillo@college.ucla.edu) - 45040

Status: Returned for Additional Info on 7/13/2012 3:38:53 PM

Changes: Effective Date

Comments: Changed effective date to Winter 2013, per request. Routing to Doug Thomson in the Registrar's Office.

Role: FEC Chair or Designee - Meranze, Michael (meranze@history.ucla.edu) - 52671

Status: Approved on 6/26/2012 4:32:54 PM

Changes: No Changes Made

Comments: No Comments

Role: L&S FEC Coordinator - Castillo, Myrna Dee Figurac (mcastillo@college.ucla.edu) - 45040

Status: Returned for Additional Info on 6/7/2012 12:08:51 PM

Changes: No Changes Made

Comments: Routing to Michael Meranze for FEC approval

Role: CUTF Coordinator - Gentile, Catherine (cgentile@oid.ucla.edu) - 68998

Status: Approved on 5/30/2012 2:33:41 PM

Changes: No Changes Made

Comments: on behalf of Professor Kathleen Komar, chair, CUTF Program

Role: Initiator/Submitter - Gentile, Catherine (cgentile@oid.ucla.edu) - 68998

Status: Submitted on 5/30/2012 2:32:52 PM

Comments: Initiated a New Course Proposal

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Comments or questions? Contact the Registrar's Office at  
[cims@registrar.ucla.edu](mailto:cims@registrar.ucla.edu) or (310) 206-7045