

The University of Western Australia
English, Communication & Cultural Studies

Romanticism and Revolution 2273

First Assignment: Response

Assignment: Response
Word Length: 1,500 words
Weighting: 35% of your total mark in Romanticism and Revolution 2273
Due Date: Thursday 7 September 2006 before 5pm to be submitted at the English Office with a coversheet, available at the ECCS office or through WebCT, attached and signed.

What is a response?

While maintaining the formal demands of an essay, Bibliography, footnotes, page numbering etc., a response allows you to be reflective as well as critical.

Will I be given a question or topic on which to write?

No. You are asked to choose and then explore an aspect of Romanticism and Revolution that interests or puzzles you. You are encouraged to discuss the topic or question you decide on with your tutor.

What is the purpose of the response?

The purpose is to assist you with the practice of critical thinking as you read, by recording your own impressions and questions on first encountering a text, and then presenting them cogently.

What form might the response take?

The response should be an edited, well-written piece that is reflective, critical but not necessarily conclusive. It should offer focussed questioning, critical thinking and responses that address the topic(s) you have chosen to discuss. You are encouraged to write in the first person and to consider your own thoughts and reactions where relevant, and if you believe that this contributes to your work.

Important Information

There are three essential details of the response which you should note:

- you must refer to one primary and one secondary text you have studied in Romanticism and Revolution, weeks 1-5 inclusive;
- the primary text on which you choose to write cannot be the focus of your research essay;
- the response must only address texts studied in weeks 1-5 inclusive.

Please note that a 'primary text' is one prose extract, one long poem or three short poems from the Norton Anthology and a 'secondary text' any one of the set critical readings in the Unit Outline or another relevant critique of your own choice.

Do I need to do any other research for the response?

You are encouraged to research your chosen topic(s) by exploring other critical readings or primary texts with which you can engage. Research

- both broadens and challenges your knowledge;
- provides you with various points of view on a particular topic;
- can produce 'deeper' insight into a particular topic;
- situates your own ideas within a wider body of thought;
- can stimulate your own opinions and ideas.

p.t.o.

Hints for writing your response

- make sure you take notes as you read your texts because these can be incorporated into your response
- formulate a title or heading which captures the essence of your ideas/ interests/ discussion. For example, one student wrote on three poems about mice with the title: 'Three Rhymed Mice'.
- make sure you start with a primary focus – a concept, a metaphor, an idea
- do not merely describe events in your chosen texts, rather draw out particular ideas or statements that you wish to question, engage with, or explore further.

Demonstrated outcomes on which the response will be graded:

Marks will be awarded on the degree to which you achieve and demonstrate the following outcomes:

- the ability to establish a topic/ idea/ issue which responds to primary material taught in the unit
- clarity of thought and expression
- a willingness to comment on the development of your own thinking processes (that is to be self-reflexive or even subjective) while at the same time maintaining your discursive relationship to the topic or idea or issue you have chosen to focus on
- originality in terms of your approach to the topic including demonstration of your own intellectual progress in the process
- engagement with one relevant secondary critical discussion by analysing how that critique supports your ideas; or, how your ideas undermine the critique's analysis; or, how your ideas extend those in the secondary critical essay.

Important Points about this Response

1. Your written work should be submitted to the ECCS Office with a cover-sheet attached. Please do NOT submit written work directly to your tutor. (If you do, there may be no official record that the work was ever submitted.)
2. In order to satisfy unit requirements, students must submit essays by the due date. Unless an extension of the due date has been granted, late assignments will incur a penalty of 2 marks per working day. (Extension requests should be made in writing to your tutor, and will normally require a medical certificate.) No work will be accepted after the end of the examination period (without a formal deferral from the Academic Student Advisor).
3. It is essential to KEEP A COPY of your work. In the case of loss of an essay, notes or an earlier draft cannot be accepted as substitutes.
4. Please do NOT write on both sides of the paper.
5. Whether your work is typed or hand-written, it should be DOUBLE-SPACED. (For handwritten essays, this means that you write on every second line.)
6. Please leave a WIDE MARGIN in case the marker needs to offer comments and annotations.
7. **PLAGIARISM** Please be aware that the essay you submit must be your own work *with no unacknowledged debt to some other writer or source*. To pass off written work as your own, whether you have copied it from someone else or from somewhere else (be it a published writer, another person, a TV program, a library anthology, or whatever) is to deprive yourself of the real benefits of this unit and to be guilty of plagiarism. Plagiarism is a serious offence! University policy is that *plagiarism, the unacknowledged quotation of material from other people's work, is a ground for failure*. Substantial plagiarism means a mark of 0% for the assignment concerned. It is your responsibility to read the Faculty policy on plagiarism:
http://www.faculty.arts.uwa.edu.au/enrolled_students/policies/plagiarism
 If you take notes from other sources (critical articles, background works, etc) you must quote carefully and accurately, and acknowledge the quotation. Even if you paraphrase, you must still acknowledge that you are paraphrasing. This is very important!