

**Carleton University  
Winter 2016  
Department of English**

**ENGL 2100B: Jane Austen and Popular Culture**

*Prerequisite(s): second-year standing*

**Fridays, 11:35-2:25pm**

Location: *Confirm Location on Carleton Central*

**Instructor: Professor Julie Murray**

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Ever since Amy Heckerling's film *Clueless* was released in 1995, critics and fans have talked excitedly of a "Jane Austen revival." Twenty years later, the revival shows no sign of abating and in fact demands that we rethink the very idea that Austen needed to be "revived" in the first place. She has always been popular in the strongest sense of the word, and in this course we will explore the history of her reception across the nineteenth, twentieth, and twenty-first centuries, considering the uses to which her work has been put in particular historical moments. But we will also devote a significant amount of time to our own cultural moment and the Jane Austen phenomenon – that is, to Austen's pervasive and persistent popularity in contemporary popular culture. From Seth Grahame-Smith's 2009 parody, *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies*; to *Lost in Austen*; to the Bollywood-style film adaptation of *Sense and Sensibility*, *Kandukondain Kandukondain (I Have Found It)*; to the YouTube series *The Lizzie Bennet Diaries* (2012-2013) and the viral "Jane Austen's Fight Club" video ("The first rule of fight club is that one never mentions fight club. No corsets, no hatpins, and no crying"), we will delve into the world of all things Jane Austen. And then there is Austen as robust global brand: the thriving literary tourism and heritage industry devoted to capitalizing on Austenmania; the love affair with Hollywood; and the seemingly infinite variety of ways in which Austen has been commodified, consumed, personified, impersonated, ventriloquized, appropriated, remediated, parodied, satirized, and embodied. We will pursue these issues and many others in our course. Because zombies.

**Required Texts:**

Jane Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*  
*Sense and Sensibility*  
*Emma*

Jo Baker, *Longbourn*

Jane Austen and Seth Grahame-Smith, *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies*

Karen Joy Fowler, *The Jane Austen Book Club*

Nancy Butler and Jane Austen, Marvel Classics, *Sense and Sensibility*

Books are available for purchase at Octopus Books, which is located at 116 Third Ave (in the Glebe). Ph: 613-233-2589. Website: [www.octopusbooks.ca](http://www.octopusbooks.ca)

### **Course Requirements:**

Two response papers – 2 x 10 = 20% (first is due Feb 5, and the second is due March 18, 2016)

Mid-term test – 20%, March 4, 2016

Austen adaptation assignment – 25% , due April 1.

Final exam – 30%

Participation and attendance – 5%

NOTE: The course assignments are mandatory. You must complete all of them in order to receive a grade in the course.

### **Two Response Papers (10% each = 20%)**

**First response paper (Feb 5):** You will submit a two-page (double-spaced) response on either *Longbourn*, or *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies*. Your response should address in some way the fact that these texts are both adaptations of Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*. What is the premise of either text? What is it about *Pride and Prejudice* that led these writers to adapt it in the way they did?

**Second response paper (March 18):** You will submit a two-page (double-spaced) response on any aspect of any text (novel, film, graphic novel) we have studied so far, provided it is a different text than the one you wrote about for your first response paper.

Format: Your typed response should conform to the MLA style, as laid out in the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. The *MLA Handbook* (in various editions) is available in the reference section and in the stacks of the library. Or check out the website at [www.mla.org](http://www.mla.org).

Among the key MLA guidelines are the following:

- \*typed, double spaced, 11 or 12 point font

- \*one inch margins on all sides

- \*number your pages (excluding page one) with a header that includes your last name (e.g., Murray 3).

- \*on the first page include in the top left corner: your name, the course number, my name, and the date. Centred just below the identifying information, include a thoughtful title for your response.

- \*document your sources according to the *MLA* style, which employs a Works Cited, as opposed to footnotes or endnotes.

### **Mid-term test (20%, March 4, 2016)**

This will be a 90 minute in-class text that will be based on short answer questions about the material covered up to and including Feb 26, 2016. Questions will be based on connections we make in lecture between the original Austen novels and their various adaptations.

### **Austen Adaptation Assignment (25%, due April 1, 2016)**

Calling all writers, directors, video artists! This is a creative assignment that consists of two parts. One is the “creative” part in which you adapt some aspect of an Austen novel using the medium of your choice. The other part of the assignment consists of a 2 page reflection on the creative piece. What are you trying to achieve with your adaptation? Is it a satire or parody? Are you updating Austen’s concerns to the 21<sup>st</sup> C? You will need to have a specific idea AND a means of translating that idea into your chosen medium. Further information to follow in class.

NOTE: For bonus points you can present your adaptation in our final class. Details to follow.

### **Final Exam (30%, to be written in formal examination period)**

30% (a 3-hour exam which will be written during the April examination period.

The final exam will consist of short answer questions, passage identification and analysis, and one essay question). Important: The April examination schedule is not released until February 2016. DO NOT make any travel plans until after the end of the examination period, which is April 11-23, 2016.

### **Attendance and Class Participation (5%)**

Your class participation mark will be assigned at the conclusion of the course, and will be based in part on your preparation for, and willingness to participate in, class discussions. In order to be considered duly prepared for class, you will need to have completed the required reading, have the relevant texts with you in class, and be ready to discuss them. Therefore, if you attend class regularly, come to class having done the assigned reading, and engage in class discussion in a thoughtful and respectful manner, you can reasonably expect to do well in this aspect of the course. Students who attend classes regularly stand a much better chance of doing well in the course than those who do not, in part because the Midterm Test and Final Exam will test you on material that we have discussed in class.

I take attendance very seriously in a course that only meets once a week. If you cannot make it to class due to illness or something very serious, please let me know in advance if possible.

### **PLAGIARISM**

The University Senate defines plagiarism as “*presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.*” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else's published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one's own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another's data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another's works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs."

Plagiarism is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly by the course's instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of "F" for the course. For more information please go to: <http://www2.carleton.ca/studentaffairs/academic-integrity>

### **Late Assignments Policy:**

The penalty for late assignments will be 2% per day, 10% per week. In the case of illness or some other emergency, medical documentation will be required. If you cannot meet a deadline because of illness, an extension may be granted, but you must discuss the possibility of an extension with me at least 3 days in advance of the deadline. Late essays will be graded without comments.

### **Submission of Written Work:**

Written assignments are due in class on the due date. If you are unable to submit an assignment in class there is a drop-box located on the 18<sup>th</sup> floor of the English Department (Dunton Tower 1812). You are responsible for ensuring that your work is submitted and reaches my hands. Please keep a copy of all assignments. If you submit an assignment to the drop-box and it goes astray, it is your responsibility to provide another copy.

### **Email Etiquette:**

The most efficient way to contact me is in person. Email communication should be used for brief messages only. I will respond to email messages as promptly as possible, but please anticipate that I may take a couple of days to respond. If you have questions about your work or any other aspect of the course, I encourage you to come and see me in my office.

**Classroom Etiquette and Technology:**

- I expect you to arrive on time for class, stay until the end, and be focused on discussion throughout the class. Bathroom breaks and other comings-and-goings during class time are strongly discouraged: organize yourself to tend to these needs before or after class.
- Mobile phones must be turned off before class begins, and texting during class is prohibited.
- You are welcome to use laptops, tablets, or comparable electronic devices in my classroom, provided that they are used SOLELY for note-taking. If your technology use proves distracting, whether to yourself, to students seated nearby, or to me, I will ask you to turn off your device and use pen and paper for your note-taking. If the problem persists, I will ask you to leave. You may also lose the privilege of using technology in subsequent classes.

**Academic Accommodation**

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details see the Student

Guide <http://carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/academic/students/>

Religious obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details see the Student Guide above.

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or [pmc@carleton.ca](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca) for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).

**Other Services at Carleton:**

**Learning Support Services (LSS):** LSS offers students a variety of services, including academic-skills workshops and information sessions, study rooms, a Tutor Referral Service, and

Peer Helpers. To learn more, visit LSS on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of the MacOdrum Library, or visit online at [www.carleton.ca/lss](http://www.carleton.ca/lss).

**Career Development and Co-operative Education (CDCE):** CDCE is an on-campus centre for career development, employment preparation, and experiential learning opportunities for Carleton students. The Career and Resource Centre is located at 401 Tory (613-520-6611) and the Co-op and Employer Centre is located at 1400 Carleton Technology and Training Centre (CTTC) (613-520-4331).

## **Schedule**

<b>January 8</b>	Introduction to course: “Marketing Jane Austen through the Ages”; review syllabus
<b>January 15</b>	<b><u>Becoming Jane Austen</u></b> Austen-Leigh, <i>A Memoir of Jane Austen</i> (linked on cuLearn) <i>Becoming Jane</i> ; dir. Julian Jarrold (2007) (film will be screened outside of class)
<b>January 22</b>	<b><u>Pride and Prejudice</u></b> Austen, <i>Pride and Prejudice</i>
<b>January 29</b>	<b><u>The Unfinished Business of <i>Pride and Prejudice</i></u></b> Baker, <i>Longbourn</i>
<b>February 5</b>	Austen and Grahame-Smith, <i>Pride and Prejudice and Zombies</i> <b>(First response paper due)</b>
<b>February 12</b>	Fowler, <i>The Jane Austen Book Club</i>
<b>February 15-19</b>	<b>Winter Break – no class</b>
<b>February 26</b>	<b><u>Sense and Sensibility</u></b> Austen, <i>Sense and Sensibility</i>
<b>March 4</b>	Butler, <i>Sense and Sensibility</i> (Marvel Comics) <b>Mid-term test (in-class, 90 minutes)</b>

**March 11**

**Sense and Sensibility meets Bollywood**

*Kandukondain, Kandukondain, (I Have Found It)*; dir. Rajiv Menon (2000) (film will be screened outside of class)

**March 18**

**Emma**

Austen, *Emma*

**(Second response paper due)**

**March 25**

**Statutory Holiday – no class**

**April 1**

**Emma Approved**

*Clueless*; dir. Amy Heckerling (1995) (film will be screened outside of class)

**(Austen Adaptation assignment due)**

**April 8**

**Austenmaniacs**

Austen and popular culture extravaganza! Informal presentations (for bonus participation marks!) on the most obscure, unusual, or odd example of Austen and popular culture you can find. Details to follow.