

- Faculté des lettres et sciences humaines
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### Sém. Ang. II/TC: The "Haunted Summer" of 1816 (2AN2065)

Filières concernées	Nombre d'heures	Validation	Crédits ECTS
<b>Pilier principal M A - littératures</b>	<b>Séminaire: 2 ph</b>	<b>cont. continu</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Pilier secondaire M A - littératures</b>	<b>Séminaire: 2 ph</b>	<b>cont. continu</b>	<b>5</b>

ph=période hebdomadaire, pg=période globale, j=jour, dj=demi-jour, h=heure, min=minute

#### Période d'enseignement:

- Semestre Automne

#### Equipe enseignante:

Prof. Patrick Vincent

#### Objectifs:

The seminar will teach students how to use primary documents in order to reconstitute the historical and material backgrounds of literary texts, while learning about Romantic-period literature and culture, early tourism in the Alps, as well as early 19th century Swiss and British history. It may involve research in an archive or field trips. Precise task-based objectives include the research and writing of an article for a special issue of the Keats-Shelley Review, and help with the scientific documentation of an exhibit on Lord Byron at Chillon Castle in May 2016.

#### Contenu:

Few events in English literary history have attracted as much attention, or spilled so much ink (or celluloid) as Lord Byron, Percy Bysshe Shelley and Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley's 1816 stay in Geneva, known as the "haunted summer" or "year without a summer." While a large swath of Europe's population was going hungry due to the Tambora eruption a year earlier and Britain's disenfranchised classes were protesting for more rights, these three writers were touring Switzerland and composing some of the Romantic period's most significant works, including Canto III of Childe Harold, Manfred, "Mont Blanc," and, of course, Frankenstein.

Loosely inspired by the methods of critique génétique, this seminar will approach these literary texts and their biographical contexts as works in progress. Taking advantage of the vast archive of texts and material objects documenting their stay (drafts, letters, journals, travel books, illustrations, etc), as well as our own geographic proximity to the sites they visited, we will study how the texts were produced, and how the history of these writers' brief visit, with its own peculiar urban legends (the genesis of the Creature, the "League of Incest," the laudanum, Byron's autograph, etc), has gained the status of myth.

#### Forme de l'évaluation:

Students will be asked to participate in one of the two research projects described above, or come up with their own project.

Note: Failure to hand in a written assignment in the accorded time, without an acceptable reason, will automatically result in a fail.

#### Documentation:

Texts will be available online, on Claroline, or in the Library

#### Forme de l'enseignement:

Seminar, possible field trips (participation is required)