Convenor: Dr Louise Joy

Description: The eighteenth century has been credited with the invention of modern childhood. This course foregrounds some of the period’s recurrent anxieties and fantasies about, of and for children, inviting you to reflect on the inter-relationships between romanticism and childhood. Reading for the seminars, listed below, is divided into required reading (highlighted in bold) and recommended reading (some further primary texts you may wish to read in conjunction with the required reading and a selection of secondary texts).

Seminar 1: DOCTRINE

Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Emile: or On Education (1762)
Maria and Richard Lovell Edgeworth, Practical Education (1798)
John Locke, Some Thoughts Concerning Education (1693)
Vicesimus Knox, Elegant Extracts or Useful and Entertaining Extracts in Poetry (1784)
---. Elegant Extracts or Useful and Entertaining Extracts in Prose (1785)
Mary Wollstonecraft, Thoughts on the Education of Daughters (1787)
Elizabeth Inchbald, A Simple Story (1791)
Mary Wollstonecraft, Vindication of the Rights of Woman (1792)
Catherine Macaulay, Letters on Education with Observations on Religions and Metaphysical Subjects (1790)
Erasmus Darwin, A Plan for the Conduct of Female Education in Boarding Schools (1797)
William Wordsworth, ‘Expostulation and Reply’ and ‘The Tables Turned’ from Lyrical Ballads (1798)
Hannah More, Coelebs in Search of a Wife (1809)

Secondary Reading
Sabine Augustin, Eighteenth-Century Female Voices: Education and the Novel (Frankfurt: Peter Lang, 2005)
Alan Richardson, Literature, Education, and Romanticism: Reading as Social Practice, 1780-1832 (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1994)

Seminar 2: VOICES

Jane Austen, Love and Freindship (1790)
William Wordsworth, The Prelude, Bks. 1-2 (1805)
Marjorie Fleming, The Complete Journals (1811)
Thomas de Quincey, *Autobiographical Sketches* (1853), ch. 1-5.

Thomas Chatterton, *Poems Supposed to have been written at Bristol by Thomas Rowley and Others, in the Fifteenth Century* (1777)

Mary Wollstonecraft, *Mary: A Fiction* (1788)

James Boswell, *The Life of Johnson* (1791), Part I (first section, approx. 1709-1742)


Lord Byron, *Don Juan*, Canto I (1819)

Charlotte Brontë, *Juvenilia* (1829-1835)

Secondary Reading


Hugh Cunningham, *Children and Childhood in Western Society Since 1500* (London: Longman, 2005)

*---. The Invention of Childhood* (London: BBC Books, 2006)


Seminar 3: MYTHOLOGIES

William Blake, *Songs of Innocence* (1789) and *Songs of Experience* (1794)

Samuel Taylor Coleridge, ‘To an Infant’; ‘Frost at Midnight’; ‘Answer to a Child’s Question’


Felicia Hemans, ‘Evening Prayer at a Girls’ School’ (1823), ‘The Child’s Last Sleep’ (1828)

Hartley Coleridge, *Sonnets and Other Poems referring to the Period of Childhood* in *Poems by Hartley Coleridge, Vol. 2* (1851)

Thomas Holcroft, *The Adventures of Hugh Trevor* (1794-97)

Bernardin de Saint Pierre, *Paul and Virginia*, trans. Helen Maria Williams (1795)

Mary Hays, *Memoirs of Emma Courtney* (1796)

Elizabeth Inchbald, *Nature and Art* (1796)


Secondary Reading

Anja Muller, *Fashioning Childhood in the Eighteenth Century: Age and Identity* (Burlington: Ashgate, 2006)


**Seminar 4: READERS**

Anna Laetitia Barbauld, *Hymns in Prose for Children* (1781)
Sarah Trimmer, *Fabulous Histories Designed for the Instruction of Children Respecting their Treatment of Animals* (1786)
Maria Edgeworth, ‘The Purple Jar’ in *The Parent’s Assistant* (1796)
Isaac Watts, *Divine Songs for Children* (1715)
John Newbery, *A Little Pretty Pocket-Book* (1744)
Sarah Fielding, *The Governess, or Little Female Academy* (1749)
Thomas Day, *The History of Sandford and Merton* (1783-1789)
Ann and Jane Taylor, *Original Poems for Infant Minds* (1804)
Charles and Mary Lamb, *Tales from Shakespeare* (1807)
Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm, *Children’s and Household Tales* (1812)
Mary Martha Sherwood, *The History of Little Henry and his Bearer* (1814)

**Secondary Reading**
Seth Lerer, *Children’s Literature: A Readers’ History from Aesop to Harry Potter* (Chicago: Chicago University Press, 2008), ch. 5
Anja Muller, *Framing Childhood in Eighteenth-Century Periodicals and Print* (Farnham: Ashgate, 2009)
Donelle Ruwe (ed.), *Culturing the Child 1660-1830: Essays in Memory of Mitzi Myers* (Scarecrow Press, 2005)