

NINETEENTH-CENTURY WOMEN WRITERS

English 438, sec. 1, Professor Moskal, Spring Semester 2014, TR 2:00-3:15



“Corinne at the Capitol,” illus. by H. S. Greig to *Corinne, or Italy* by Mme. De Staël

The stresses of what we now call “a work-life balance” afflicted earlier generations than our own. Students in this section of English 438 will examine these stresses as represented in a signature nineteenth-century form, the “novel of vocation,” asking how these novels address the competition between work and family (and sexuality), how they compare men’s and women’s vocations, and how they enlist religion on one side or the other.

Texts: Jane Austen, *Mansfield Park*; Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein* and *Valperga*; Charlotte Brontë, *Jane Eyre*.

Assignments: One 1000-word creative assignment; one 1000-word targeted research essay; oral presentation based on one of the two essays; final examination.

Jeanne Moskal’s fields of expertise are the British Romantic Period (1780-1830) and travel literature. An award-winning teacher and mentor, she has authored a book on William Blake and edited Mary Shelley’s travel writings for the standard edition of her works.

This course has no prerequisites and is open to students in all majors. Interested students with questions are welcome to contact the instructor in advance of registration at jmoskal@email.unc.edu.