

Jane Austen: Love, Money, & Manners: Desire, Deception, & the Novels of Jane Austen

Faculty: Elisha Cohn, Professor, Literatures in English

Week Two: July 12 – 18, 2026

Schedule: Monday - Friday, 9-12 and 1:30-3:30, except Wednesday afternoon.

Location: Kennedy Hall, room 101

Supplies:

* *Pride and Prejudice*, ed. Mary Favret (W. W. Norton)

* A notebook

What to expect:

1. DAY 1

Morning: Why Austen?

* Introductions

* Mini-Lecture on “Why Austen”

* Opening line exercise

* Writing our own version exercise

* Mini-Lecture on Austen biography/hagiography (including Henry Austen’s “Biographical Notice”

Afternoon: Close Reading, Theory and Practice

* Guided discussion of the rest of ch. 1

* Mini-lecture on Free Indirect Discourse (including D. A. Miller “No One is Alone” excerpt)

* Guided close reading of the next 2 chapters – group work and report back

2. DAY 2

Morning: Getting in Character: Elizabeth Bennet and Fitzwilliam Darcy

* Guided discussion: Elizabeth Bennett – who is she? How does she emerge in the text? What makes her a sympathetic character and what do we mean when we talk about that? (including film clips)

* Mini-Lecture on character systems and characterization, discussion of brief excerpt from Alex Woloch’s *The One Vs. the Many* (pre-circulated)

* Guided discussion: Darcy – who is he? How does he emerge in the text (including film clips)

Afternoon: Regency Culture

* Historical context – balls and ballrooms; military; inheritance

* Guided discussion: why is the Mr. Collins plot important? Why do updates sometimes omit the Mr. Collins figure?

3. Day 3

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Morning: Love and Desire

- * Group work on student-selected passages
- * Guided discussion of Darcy's letter
- * Mini-lecture on regency sexual culture
- * Guided discussion of Lydia's plot

NO AFTERNOON SESSION

4. DAY 4

Morning: Pride and Property in Text and Film

- * Guided discussion of the pivotal house viewing scene – text version
- * Viewing and discussion of film versions of this scene
- * How to make an argument – what are the stakes of this scene? Reading samples of various critics' accounts of this scene

Afternoon: Visit to Kroch Special Collections in Olin Library

- * Visit to Kroch Special Collections
- * Mini-Lecture on novels in the context of print culture

5. DAY 5

Morning: How to Read an Ending

- * Mini-Lecture on how to read an ending
- * Student-selected passages
- * Guided discussion of the ending of the novel, including Claudia Johnson, "Pride and Prejudice and the Pursuit of Happiness" (pre-circulated)

Afternoon: Fan Culture

- * Discussion of Devoney Looser, *Wild for Austen* chapter (pre-circulated)
- * Fan Culture with student-selected examples