

Università di Parma
Dipartimento di Lingue
Centro Interuniversitario per lo Studio del Romanticismo

**British Literature and Culture
Seminar**

***Thematic Itineraries
in Nineteenth-century British Literature***

La sezione di anglistica del Dipartimento di Lingue e Letterature Straniere dell'Università di Parma organizza un seminario articolato in tre incontri su alcuni temi ricorrenti nella letteratura inglese dell'Ottocento. Gli incontri si svolgeranno in lingua inglese.

Mercoledì 26 gennaio 2011
h. 15, 30-17, 00

Prof. D. Saglia
“Monstrous Depths: Writing the Unconscious
from Romanticism to the *Fin de siècle*”

Giovedì 3 febbraio 2011
h. 15, 30-17, 00

Dott. ssa Chiara Rolli
“At Home with the Imperial World: Romantic
Metropolitan Culture and the Empire”

Mercoledì 9 febbraio 2011
h. 15, 30-17, 00

Prof. G. Angeletti
“Urban Landscapes, Urban Wastelands:
Figurations of the City from Blake to Dickens”

Il seminario, che si terrà nell'Aula Magna (Aula Mazzini) del Dipartimento di Lingue e Letterature Straniere in Viale San Michele 9, è gratuito e aperto al pubblico. Al completamento del seminario, i docenti riceveranno un attestato di frequenza.

Nel caso in cui docenti delle scuole superiori fossero intenzionati ad accompagnare intere classi, si prega di avvisare la Segreteria Didattica del Dipartimento nella persona di Federica Ignotti, tel: 0521-034713, e-mail: federica.ignotti@unipr.it.

Per informazioni generali: Prof. Gioia Angeletti, e-mail: gioia.angeletti@unipr.it.

Abstracts degli incontri

Prof. D. Saglia

Monstrous Depths: Writing the Unconscious from Romanticism to the *Fin de siècle*

The nineteenth century saw the emergence of a variety of ideas about the deepest recesses of the human soul and psyche – those dark areas which, near the end of the century, psychoanalysis would define and categorize as the ‘unconscious’. In this process, literature (and prose fiction in particular) played a crucial role, as it contributed to an examination of these unknown territories populated by monstrous instincts and desires. Between Romanticism and the *Fin de siècle*, ideas of the self changed in such radical ways that they would never be the same again. Considering a range of works from *Frankenstein* and *Dracula*, to *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* and *The Portrait of Dorian Gray*, this lecture focuses on how nineteenth-century literature began to produce maps of the deeper levels of the psyche which anticipated, and indeed paved the way for, twentieth-century explorations of the unconscious.

Prof G. Angeletti

Urban Landscapes, Urban Wastelands: Figurations of the City from Blake to Dickens

Urban scenarios are a recurrent presence in nineteenth-century British literature. They are ‘translations’ of both external and internal visions in a world subject to continuous change and transformation. When authors employ them to depict the traumatic impact of social metamorphoses on Victorian life, people and landscape, they may either choose to focus on the more visible and realistic aspects of the newly formed modern city, as in Dickens’s novels, or turn it into an allegory of their individual angst facing the most disturbing effects of the modern industrial world, as in the half-real, half-surreal representation in James Thomson’s *The City of Dreadful Night*. On the other hand, authors may resort to city imagery to translate different subjective moods – a fleeting moment of joy, or a temporary vision of vivacity, as in some London pictures by Mary Robinson and Wordsworth. The aim of this lecture is to provide examples of city figurations from works by, among others, Blake, Wordsworth, Thomson and Dickens that show how the Romantic- and Victorian-period response to the new urban reality wavered between attraction and repulsion, beauty and horror.