
ENGLISH RESEARCH SEMINAR: What is it?

In the broadest terms, the English Research Seminar is an opportunity for our students (undergraduate and graduate) to have a **brief but intense research experience** with a well-respected scholar of English. The invited guest scholar serves as both a teacher (with at least one teaching session with selected students) and a lecturer (with one formal presentation to which all faculty and students are invited).

Readings are to be handed out in advance of the scholar's visit, the idea being that the more preparation involved, the more fruitful the teaching and the lecture will be for our students. The scholar models rigorous and exciting research and teaching methods, giving our students a lasting impression of what focused study in English can produce.

Lastly, the visiting scholar offers students a prime opportunity to make a connection with an important scholar who may be able to advise on matters of developing a career in English.

Thank you to the **Redden Foundation** for a generous grant enabling the English Research Seminar, the **EIU Center for the Humanities** for sponsoring Dr. Faubert's Public Humanities Discussion, and the **PBK Alumni Association** for the Fall Lecture.

Welcome Teacher/Lecturer

Dr. Michelle Faubert

Dr. Michelle Faubert (Ph.D. University of Toronto) is Associate Professor of English, Film, and Theatre at the University of Manitoba. Her recent research and teaching have focused on studying the history of psychology (depression and melancholia), resurrecting the largely neglected role of suicide debates in the literature and culture of British and continental Romanticism, and reexamining the complex history of the transatlantic slave trade. Winner of multiple major research grants in England and in Canada, she has edited an authoritative critical edition of Mary Shelley's *Mathilda* (Broadview Press, 2017).

ALL READINGS ARE AVAILABLE ELECTRONICALLY AND AS HARD COPIES.

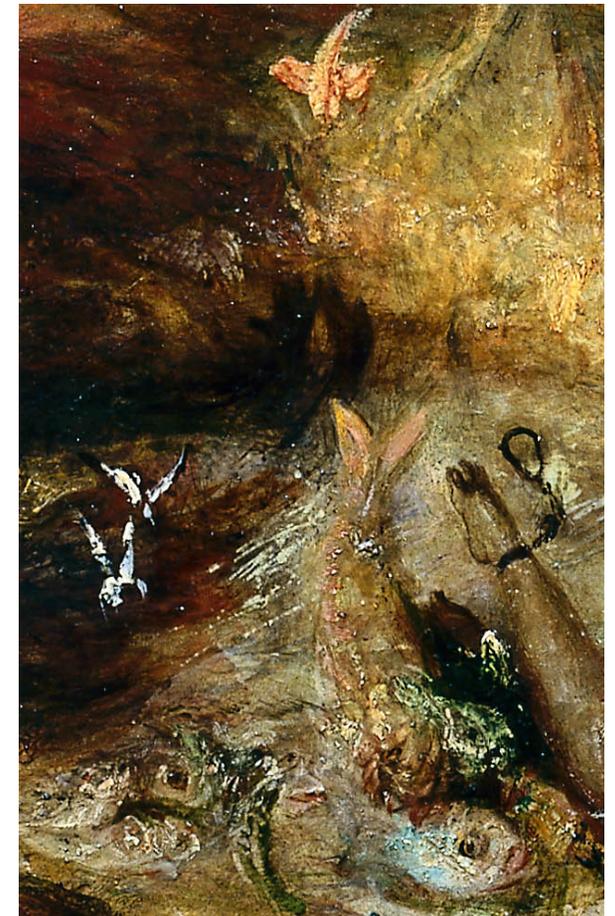
Email Suzie Park at sapark@eiu.edu.



English Research Seminar

November 13-14, 2017

Sponsored by the **REDDEN FOUNDATION**, the **EIU CENTER FOR THE HUMANITIES**, and the **PHI BETA KAPPA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**



chapter I. **PUBLIC HUMANITIES DISCUSSION**

“*Werther* Goes Viral: Suicidal Contagion and New Life for an Old Novel”

Monday, 11/13, 3:00-4:30pm @ 4440 Booth Library (Witters Conf. Rm, Media 4th floor)



This will be a casual discussion with Dr. Faubert and Dr. CC Wharram (Humanities Center Director) about Goethe’s world-famous 1774 novel (*The Sorrows of Young Werther*) featuring the suicide of the impassioned and tortured-in-love protagonist.

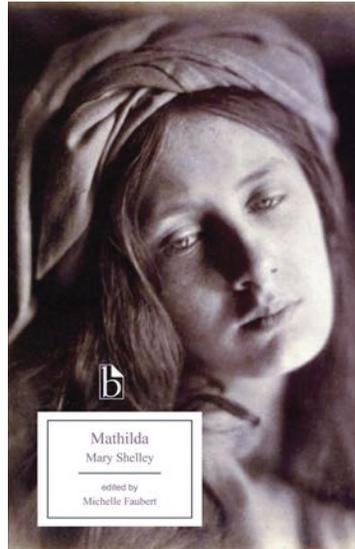


chapter II. **MASTER CLASS and FREE LUNCH!**

“Mary Shelley’s *Mathilda*”

Tuesday, 11/14, 12:30-1:45pm @ 4440 Booth Library (Witters Conf. Rm, Media 4th floor)

Dr. Faubert will be teaching *Mathilda*, the controversial, posthumously published novella by Mary Shelley, author of *Frankenstein*. **Incest? Suicide? This is Romanticism at its darkest.** Mary Shelley wrote *Mathilda* on the heels of losing her infant daughter and son. She was successfully pressured NOT to publish *Mathilda* by her famous father William Godwin, who called the work “disgusting.” Why? It’s a story about a young woman who, after the death of her mother in childbirth (Mary’s famous mother, Mary Wollstonecraft, died shortly after giving birth to her), is abandoned by



her father and left in the care of an aunt. *Mathilda*’s depressed father returns from abroad when she is a teenager, and declares his passion for her. He leaves her, and commits suicide. It only gets bleaker from there. Placing this chilling story in the **fascinating medical humanities context of actual cultural debates over suicide**—considered from legal, literary, and philosophical perspectives—Dr.

Faubert’s analysis uncovers a significant and buried chapter of literary and psychological history.

chapter III. **PBK LECTURE**

“The *Zong* Slave-Ship Massacre: A New Discovery in the British Library”

Tuesday, 11/14, 5:00-6:30pm @ Doudna FAC Lecture Hall



In 1781, as the *Zong* slave ship journeyed from the Cape Coast of Africa to Jamaica, the owners of the ship **threw overboard 133 slaves to their deaths—and all to collect insurance.** In her evening lecture, Dr. Faubert shares her real-life story of discovering a letter on the *Zong* case written by key British abolitionist Granville Sharp. **This is no ordinary letter.** Having long been buried in the British Library, Sharp’s unknown fair-copy (or version intended for publication) demands that top officials charge the Liverpool-based slave-ship owners with murder. Dr. Faubert invites us to consider the central role of this major scholarly discovery, which documents a horrific event that turned the tide of public opinion about the injustice of slavery—in Britain and abroad.