Romanticism vs. Realism
Romanticism is born...
Romantic definition

• Reaction to 18th century classicism & rationalism
• Viewed as revolutionary, emphasized change
• Events now affect human thought & expression and society & politics
Romantic facts

- Height from 1800 – 1850, but varied by country
- Seen in painting, architecture, music, literature, philosophy
- Spawns humanitarian movements against poverty, slavery, & industry evils
- Destroys simplicity & unity of 18th c thought, now many views of Western civilization
Romantic elements

• Emotion over reason
• Optimism, flexibility, personal feeling
• Rejection of classic emphasis on rules & order, imagination & intuition
• Rejection of Nature as a harmonious whole, now alive & changing
• Rejection of Past as counter-progressive, now growing & changing nationally
Realism definition

• Reaction to 19th century Romanticism
• Seen in realistic detail, no interpretations
• Subjects now everyday life & people
Realistic facts

- Approximately 1840s – end of century
- Seen in painting, architecture, music, literature, philosophy
- Also seen in new medium of photography
- Spawns naturalism and all anti-realist movements
- All later experimentations came as a reaction to this!
Realism elements

• **Positivism:** faith in & consequences of close observation of humans & nature

• **Accuracy & objectivity** when portraying ordinary world

• **Inclusion of new science & technological advancements**
Romantic Painting
Characteristics

• Loose, fluid brushwork
• Strong colors
• Complex compositions
• Contrasts of light & dark
• Expressive poses & gestures
Ingres  Large Odalisque
Gericault  Raft of the Medusa
Gros Napoleon in Plague House
Delacroix  Liberty Leading the People
Delacroix  Massacre at Chios
Goya  Third of May 1808
Friedrich Monk by the Sea
Friedrich Wanderer
Turner *Snowstorm: Hannibal and His Army Crossing Alps*
Constable  Clouds
Realism Painting
Corot *Le Pont de Mantes*
Rosa Bonheur

Plowing in Nivernais
Millet  Woman Baking Bread
Courbet  *Burial at Ornans*
Courbet: The Stonebreakers
Daumier

Third Class Carriage
Romantic Architecture
Characteristics

• Classical revival: Greek after 1815
• Romantic classicism: individual, intuitive creation that emphasizes classic details
• Picturesque: Gothic motifs & fantasy
John Nash’s Royal Pavilion
Houses of Parliament
Realism
Architecture
Characteristics

• Experimentation & new materials, steel & glass
• Combinations of design, material, & space
• Skyscraper in America
  • Cramped space in urban areas
  • Needed elevator
• Sullivan: form flows from function
Paxton  Crystal Palace
Monadnock Building
Louis Sullivan
Romantic Music
Characteristics

• Form subordinate to feeling & harmonies as a means of expression
• Emphasis on lyrical & expressive melodies
• Experiments in new meter & patterns of rhythm
• Emotional conflict suggested by juxtaposition of differing meters & rhythmic irregularity
Musicians

- Franz Schubert: “art song”
- Frederich Chopin: piano compositions
- Richard Strauss: program music
- Johannes Brahms: symphonies & choral music
- Richard Wagner: opera
Nationalism

- Folk tunes & themes, local rhythms & harmonies
- Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky
  - Cultural past & political circumstances
  - “Violin Concerto in D Major”
Realism

Music
Characteristics

- 1870 – 1914: huge change!
- Development of elaborate programs to explain major plots vs. simple stories
- Composers much more autobiographical
- Birth if program symphonies & symphonic poems
Musicians

- Franz Liszt: program music
- Richard Strauss: symphonic poems & opera, influenced by German expressionism
- Tchaikovsky: autobiographical “Symphony No. 6 in b minor”
- Gustav Mahler: lately appreciated Bohemian, straddles modern century
Romantic Philosophers
Immanuel Kant

- Lived through 19th century optimism, so has a positive outlook
- Art unites opposing principles, such as reason & imagination
• Also maintains positive outlook
• Art synthesizes opposites of *thesis* (pure beings) & *antithesis* (natural world)
• Applies to human mind & world history patterns
• Contributes to modern art criticism
Arthur Schopenhauer

- Polar opposite of Kant & Hegel
- Dominating will in world is evil
- World is doomed to be ravaged by misery & strife
- Popularity rises after failed nationalistic revolutions of mid 19th c
Karl Marx

- Revolution is necessary
- Capitalism is evil
- Masses are sedated by religion
- “Workers of the world, unite!”
- Materialist concept of history
- Art can determine history & contribute to change
- Realistic style fits struggle best
Charles Darwin

- *On the Origin of the Species by Means of Natural Selection*
- Theory of evolution explains species are capable of variation
- Evolution occurs by natural selection, survival of fittest
- *The Descent of Man*: humans evolved from anthropoids
- Spawned Social Darwinism, but never personally endorsed
Realism
Philosophers
Friedrich Nietzsche

- Attacked accepted ideas of time
- But readers should not agree!
- Human helplessness in mechanical world under inflexible law
- But human courage in face of this is best quality
- Will spawn superhuman race
Sigmund Freud

• Developed psychoanalysis, study of unconsciousness & dreams
• Charted levels of mind
• Symbolism of dreams can also apply to literature, 20\textsuperscript{th} c criticism
• Also influenced stream of consciousness style
Carl Jung

- Collective human unconscious shared by all with archetypal images
- Artists influenced more than everyone else
- Artistic creations are unconscious representation of archetypal images
Romantic Literature
Characteristics

- Johann Wolfgang von Goethe transitions from Neo-classicism
- Romantics use both prose & poetry
- Lots of groups & partnerships
Poetry

• Peak in English literature
• Themes of nature, human existence, reaction to art
• William Wordsworth founder
• Lord Byron, Percy Bysshe Shelley, John Keats, Samuel Taylor Coleridge
Prose

- Literate public eager for fiction
- Jane Austin: more Neo-classic & comedy of manners, *Pride and Prejudice*
- Bronte sisters: *Wuthering Heights* and *Jane Eyre*
- Charles Dickens: fence sitter
- Leo Tolstoy: *Anna Karenina and War & Peace*
Realism
Literature
Prose Characteristics

- Depicts life with absolute honesty
- Specific & verifiable details vs. sweeping generalities
- Value impersonal, photographic accuracy vs. interpretation
- Influenced by science, reaction to Romanticism
- Stresses commonplace & brutal
Feodor Dostoevski

- Theme of human suffering producing salvation
- *Crime and Punishment*: psychological novel, explores multiple personalities
- Theme of moral redemption through suffering
- Morality is what a person is, not what they show
Ibsen & Chopin

• Henrick Ibsen: Norwegian playwright
• *A Doll’s House*: discusses women’s rights, controversial play
• Kate Chopin: American, not well known, novels & short stories
• *The Awakening*: oppression of women, controversial