

Jane Austen and Her World: II

A study of *Sense and Sensibility*, *Northanger Abbey*, *Emma*, and *Lady Susan*

Purpose: We will read and discuss several of Jane Austen's novels and learn about her life and her times. (This is a follow-up to a Fall 2017 class that is not a prerequisite, nor will those fall participants have priority for this seminar).

Moderator:	Sherry Wilson
Co-moderator:	Dudley Williams
Date and Time:	Tuesday morning, 10:00-Noon 10 weeks, starting September 25
Format:	Seminar
Location:	Smith College, Dewey Hall Common

Description: For more than 200 years, Jane Austen has delighted readers with her wit, her keen observations on human nature, and her depictions of country life in England in the Napoleonic era. We will explore whether her commentary is as valid today as it was in 1800. We will read and discuss three novels, *Sense and Sensibility*, *Northanger Abbey* and *Emma*, as well as her novella, *Lady Susan*, which was made into the movie "Love and Friendship" a few years ago. In the first hour of each session, participants will give a presentation on some aspect of Austen's society. Topics might include: inheritance, a gentleman's education, contemporary literature, courtship and marriage, social status, the clergy's role, or the city of Bath. The second hour will be a discussion of part of one of the novels. We will spend several weeks on each novel and part of one session on the novella.

Role of participants: Seminar participants will be expected to read the four books and contribute to discussions. Participants may choose to either research a topic and make a short presentation on it, or lead a discussion on a section of one of the books. There will be list of suggested topics.

Resources: The novels: *Sense and Sensibility*, *Northanger Abbey*, *Emma*, and *Lady Susan*. Any edition may be used. We recommend the Anchor Books Editions, edited and annotated by David Shapard. A list of research books will be provided.

About the Moderators: Sherry Wilson is a life-long admirer of Jane Austen who rereads one of her novels every year. She is a retired newspaper reporter and garden columnist and moderated a seminar on Jane Austen in Fall 2017. Dudley Williams, who took the Fall 2017 seminar, is a retired businessman and admirer of Jane Austen's language style, her humor, irony, and ethics.

Maximum number of participants: 19

Auditors accepted: yes, up to 2

Course # 18FJA