LIT3101 – Rom/Vic Prose

Office hour Tuesday 2pm

Seminar prep each week – extra reading on reading list? plan/ read/ do Wednesdays before 5pm

Text, preparation sheet, (secondary reading), discussion board

Link between literary n political contexts

Literature is active participant in history and culture of its day, doesn’t just describe and react to what’s going on around it - not just descriptive tool, rather seeking to act 20th century poets – ie Larkin poetry “makes things happen”

Contemporary resonance atm? Questions being raised re: nature of pol. Discourse – in parl. Atm danger that discourse is so divisive that it may be creating more problems than solving – fundamentally about no what you say but way you say it/ nature of discourse – American pol too

^what Burke/Wollstonecraft trying to present

Burke –

Emotive language, calling on emotions, reader offended by proxy? If a woman had written it would be described hysterical? – calling on sensibility, inviting us not to think but feel

Invokes history at the beginning “history will record that…” – despite lack of how it connects to history – isolated and meaningless event

Genuine fear that revolution would spread, justifies emotive language bc the’re feeling that emotional

Representation of Marie Antionette – semi naked queen being pierced by daggers, gothic gaudiness – instrumentalizing a woman’s body for his own political ends, blood on sheets – red and white patriarchalism/ petrarchy ? body becomes embodiment of chivalrous system he’s attempting to uphold, misogyny

Wollstonecraft

“rusty” opinions -> metal, ind rev – new/ old

Not, negative mode – cutting, castrating? Undermining him & his ego

Takes his metaphor and twists it/ pushes it – “quitting now the flowers of rhetoric” reason > ‘eccentric’/emotive writing

Gender differences are result of education “I have not yet learned… to disguise my sentiments” – wit paradox of women having to learn to act like women, it’s not natural

“country people” thinking Burke’s ideas are “folly” – architectural languages, “superstructure” – Burke’s writing like a building: pretty but empty -> demon of property?

Property and ownership – even her metaphorical language motivated by the politics she’s trying to defend

Wollstonecraft – genderless at end, “the richt” “the few” “the tyrants”

Glittering/glow – glittering = reflective glow coming from within