 Institutt for litteratur, områdestudier og europeiske språk

**TAKE-HOME EXAM**

**2010/FALL**

**ENG2329: Reception Studies**

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| 3 days | 06.-09.12.2010 |
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2 pages (including this)

## Write an essay on ONE of the following topics

1. Contributors to the field of reception studies differ in which authority they ascribe to the text, the book and the reader in the complex process of reading, interpretation and reception. Discuss this statement with reference to *at least three* of the *theoretical* texts on your reading list.

OR

2. Discuss how critical and popular reception of *Frankenstein, or the Modern Prometheus* is informed by the interpretation of Victor Frankenstein’s Promethean ambition as either heroic or subversive – or both. Make sure you pay attention to the various forces that shape the reception, including the text of the novel.

OR

3. The novelist E. M. Forster confessed to Janeitism in 1924: “I am a Jane Austenite, and therefore slightly imbecile about Jane Austen. (…) I read and re-read, the mouth open and the mind closed. Shut up in measureless content, I greet her by the name of most kind hostess, while criticism slumbers.”[[1]](#footnote-1) Although this dotty enthusiasm about all things Austen does not prevent him from proceeding to offer shrewd textual analysis, his statement does highlight one prominent characteristic of the reception of Jane Austen’s novels: the contest between scholars and critics, on the one hand, and fans on the other. Discuss this feature in relation to the reception of *Pride and Prejudice*, paying particular attention to the many forces that inform this reception, as well as the elements of the novel that support the approaches of the various reading communities.

**The essay should not exceed 10 pages, Times New Roman 12, 1.5 line space.**

**Submit your paper in Fronter (blyant.uio.no) no later than 9 December, at 12:00 noon.**

**Explanation: For an explanation of the mark obtained: contact the responsible teacher of the course no later than 1 week after the exam results have been published in StudentWeb. Remember to include your name and candidate number. The examiner will then decide whether to give a written explanation or call you in for an interview.**

1. In B. C. Southam ed., *Jane Austen: the Critical Heritage 1870-1940, Volume II* ( London: Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1987), p. 279 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)