New Historicism & Intertextuality:

Historical & cultural context

- how one text can illuminate meaning in another (synthesis)

Romanticism:

- Reaction to Industrial Revolution and Age of Reason (science over religion)

- Bold reaction to “rule based” reason over the appreciation of Art

- Strong emotion, authentic source of aesthetic experience: lyric – “spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings” (Lyrical Ballads, 1799, Wordsworth)

- Writing not based upon artificial rules: lyrical poetry – strong emotional poem based upon a poet’s imagination

- Imagination, freedom, elevated Nature, elevated “Common Man,” and individual imagination over reason

- Distrusted the “human world”

- Romanesque: devoted to beauty, nature, fascination with the past (myth, mysticism of the Middle Ages, glorifies paganism)