**Movies about the Romantics or the Romantic Period**

*Conceiving Ada* 1997
A contemporary setting, with a computer expert finding a way to communicate with Byron’s daughter, Ada. More about computers than about Romanticism.

*Gothic* 1986
Ken Russell’s account of the summer of 1816 when the Byron and the Shelley’s embark on a contest to see who can write the best scary story, resulting in Frankenstein. A very dark picture (visually and in tone), and weird. Good cast, though, with Gabriel Byrne as Byron, Julian Sands as Shelley.

*Haunted Summer* 1988
The same subject matter as Gothic, but lighter. I like this one a lot. Eric Stoltz looks a lot like Shelley, but Byron is a disappointment.

*Pandaemonium* 2000
Framed by an 1813 party at which Wordsworth (and everyone) expects (wrongly) to receive the announcement that he has been chosen the next poet laureate, this film consists of flashbacks about the relationship between Wordsworth and Coleridge from 1795-ish to 1813, with a little coda later. Historical inaccuracies, but fun.

*Rowing with the Wind* 1988
Just awful, another look at the Shelley/Byron relationship. Hugh Grant is Byron, and Liz Hurley is Claire Clairmont (with very big eyebrows).

*Lady Caroline Lamb* 1972
Another really awful one, but irresistible nevertheless. Sara Miles is Byron’s stalker, and Richard Chamberlain is an abusive Byron.

**Also relevant:**

*Frankenstein*
several versions, none true to the book. Stay away from the Andy Warhol version unless you like really, really gross stuff and graphic sex and violence. The 3-D glasses don’t help.

**For the period:**

Any of the Jane Austen films: (all really well done)
- *Emma* (and then see *Clueless*)
- *Mansfield Park*
- *Persuasion*
- *Pride and Prejudice*
- *Sense and Sensibility*

Also the Brontes:
- *Jane Eyre*
- *Wuthering Heights*

Even Dickens, though historically later, can give you some insights into living conditions:
- *David Copperfield*
- *Great Expectations* (not the one with Gwyneth)
- *Nicholas Nickleby*
- *Oliver Twist*

*Pee Wee’s Big Adventure* has remarkable similarities with *Rime of the Ancient Mariner.*