

AUSTEN  
LECTURE #3

Thinking With &  
Thinking Against

Assembly Rooms in Bath

Bath photos by Dr. Elizabeth Losh

1

---

---

---


---

---

---

---

---

I. THINKING "WITH" 

- A. Allying with the ironic narrator (in assessing characters, in understanding the necessity to "hit the mean," etc.)
- B. Responding to (cooperating with) generic conventions
- C. Seeing Bath as both a site for Austen's critique of social rank and a site for unexpected conjunctions (which Anne and Wentworth benefit from).
- D. Assessing the Navy: a meritocracy vs. an "ancient and respectable family" (46).

2

---

---

---


---

---

---

---

---

I. THINKING "WITH" (CONT.) 

- E. Film of Persuasion, starring Amanda Root and Ciaran Hinds
  - 1. Opening scenes: Look for the parallel & opposition between the "ancient" family and the Navy.
  - 2. How can you tell that this film is thinking "with" Austen?

3

---

---

---

---

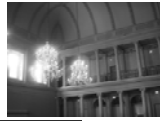
---

---

---

---

## II. THINKING “AGAINST”



- A. Life on a ship – some details not compatible with Austen’s idealized treatment
  - See “Supporting quotations for Lecture #3 on Austen.”)
- B. “Jane Austen and Empire” - the Edward Said thesis in *Culture and Imperialism*
  - (See “Supporting quotations for Lecture #3 on Austen.”)

4

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## III. THINKING “WITH” & “AGAINST”

- Examples from Lyme”
  - ▶ 1. Social rank: “On quitting the Cobb, they all went indoors with their new friends . . . gratification” (127-8).
  - ▶ 2. The work of hands: “Captain Harville was no reader; but he had contrived excellent accommodations, and fashioned very pretty shelves . . .” (128)

5

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## IV. A PAGE FOR YOUR THOUGHTS

- A. What do you think about Austen?
- B. How has your thinking changed since you first began reading the novel?
- C. What difference does it make to your reading of Austen that you have read Aristotle and Descartes in the same course?

6

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---