

English 150: The Victorian Age

Fall 2017

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Office Hours: M 330-430 & by Appt.

Description: This course surveys the literature produced during the Victorian period, which is dated conventionally from 1832-1900. Our focus will be primarily upon the fiction and poetry of the age, supplemented by non-fiction prose, music, and art.

NB: Because this is a 4-unit course, students can expect to spend a minimum of 12 hours per week preparing for and attending classes and completing course assignments. Engl 150 will have the following 1-unit enhancement integrated into the syllabus: Collateral readings and art forms as listed in the Schedule of Readings and Assignments. All material will be covered by the midterm, essay assignments, and final exam.

Requirements: Students must sit for the midterm and final exams, write one short (3-4 pp) and one long essay (8-10 pp). Students must also have prepared the readings assigned and appear in class ready to participate in discussion.

Grading: Short essay 15%; long essay 25%; hour exam and final 25% each; journal and participation 10%.

Required Texts:

Stephen Greenblatt et al, *The Norton Anthology of English Literature*, Victorian Period (NA)

Charles Dickens, *Little Dorrit* (Penguin) [LD]

George Eliot, *Middlemarch* (Penguin) [MM]

Thomas Hardy, *Jude the Obscure* (Penguin) [JO]

Collateral Assignments are detailed in the Appendix.

Schedule

Aug 23: Introduction

28: LD Book the First, chs i-xii; BEGIN UNIT 1

30: LD Book the First, chs xiii-xxiv

Sept 06: LD Book the First, chs xxv-xxxiv

11: LD Book the Second chs. i-xii

13: LD Book the Second, chs xiii-xvii

20: LD Book the Second, chs xviii-xxvi

25: LD Book the Second, chs xvii-xxvii

27: LD Book the Second, chs xviii-end

Oct: 02: MM Prelude and Book One; BEGIN UNIT 2

04: MM Book Two

09: MM Book Three; **Short Essay Due**

- 16:** MM Book Four
18: MM Book Five
23: MM Book Six
25: MM Book Seven
30: MM Book Eight and Finale
Nov 01: JO Parts First-Third; BEGIN UNIT 3
06: JO Parts Fourth-end
08: HOUR TEST
13: NA 1198-1241; 1230-1281; 1679-1690; 1428-1432; 1139-1146; 1166; 1196-1203; **BEGIN UNIT 4**
15: NA 1204-1236
20: NA 1316-1322
27: NA 1300-1313
29: NA 1373-1375; 1377-1379; 1387-1394
Dec 04: NA 1472-1476, 1487-1488
06: Christina Rossetti, <https://www.poemhunter.com/poem/monna-innominata-a-sonnet-of-sonnets/>
11: LAST CLASS; REVIEW; LONG ESSAY DUE
19: FINAL EXAM (1445-1700)

Collateral Readings and Assignment

Assignment: Please read the following material when required. You must keep a reading journal. Entries should be completed as you finish each of the assigned texts. The journal will be submitted at the end of the semester. It may be a written journal or one kept in Word. The substance of the journal is not mere summaries of the texts. The journal should record your reactions to the texts and your sense of how the additional material supplements your understanding of the primary readings.

Unit 1: The following readings relate to many of the themes that are present in *Little Dorrit*.

Thomas Carlyle, "The Captains of Industry" (NA 1072-1076)

Friedrich Engels, *The Condition of the Working Class in England*
<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/17306/17306-h/17306-h.htm>)

Karl Marx, "Alienation"
<http://www.yavanika.org/classes/reader/marx1.pdf>)

Henry Mayhew, *London Labor and London Poor*, volume 1: 1-3.
<http://web.archive.org/web/20021129181044/http://etext.lib.virginia.edu:80/tcbin/toccer-new2?id=MayLond.sgm&images=images/modeng&data=/texts/english/modeng/parsed&tag=public&part=front>

Unit 2: The following readings relate to many of the themes that are present in *Middlemarch*.

Elizabeth Barrett Browning, *Aurora Leigh* (NA 1138-1156)

George Eliot, “Margaret Fuller and Mary Wollstonecraft” (NA 1353-1361)

-----, “Silly Novels by Lady Novelists” (NA 1361-1369)

John Stuart Mill, *The Subjection of Women* (NA 1105-1115)

Norton Anthology 1607- 1636

Unit 3: The following readings relate to many of the themes that are present in *Jude the Obscure*.

Charles Knowlton, *The Fruits of Philosophy* chs I, IV
(<https://www.gutenberg.org/files/38185/38185-h/38185-h.htm>)

Samuel Smiles, *Self Help* chs I and IV
(<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/935/935-h/935-h.htm>)

<https://www.bl.uk/victorian-britain/articles/education-in-victorian-britain>

Marie Stopes, *Married Love* chs I-IV
(http://www.gutenberg.org/files/47501/47501-h/47501-h.htm#Page_1)

Unit 4: The following readings relate to the many themes that are present in Victorian verse.

Charles Lyell
(<http://www.esp.org/books/lyell/principles/facsimile/contents.htm>) Volume One, chs II, V, IX

Charles Darwin, NA 1560-1580

Arthur Henry Hallam,
https://www.wwnorton.com/college/english/nael/victorian/topic_3/resources.htm

John Ruskin, NA 1335-1353

Matthew Arnold, NA 1394-1425

Walter Pater, NA 1538-1546

Oscar Wilde, NA 1723-1733