

DEREE COLLEGE SYLLABUS FOR:

EN 3529 THE VICTORIAN WORLD - LEVEL 6

(Updated Fall 2010)

UK CREDITS: 15

US CR: 3/0/3

PREREQUISITES:

WP 1010 Introduction to Academic Writing
WP 1111 Integrated Academic Writing and Ethics
WP 1212 Academic Writing and Research
EN 2321 English Literature: From Romanticism to Modernism
EN 2305 Introduction to English Studies

CATALOG

DESCRIPTION:

Critical study of representative poetry, prose, and fiction of the Victorian age focusing on the interrelation between the texts and the cultural context of nineteenth-century Britain.

RATIONALE:

This required course offers a systematic study of Victorian texts within the context of major historical, intellectual, and socio-economic events from the 1830s to the end of the century.

LEARNING

OUTCOMES:

Upon successful completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Discuss the impact major social, political, scientific, religious and philosophical events and trends from 1832 to 1901 had on representative texts of the period;
2. Explore the characteristics of the literature of the period through close textual analysis and conduct research on aspects of the literature examined;
3. Trace the development of various key Victorian concepts, such as duty, patriotism, or progress, in relation to the dominance of Britain as a political power in the nineteenth century;
4. Discuss the continuing influence of Romanticism on Victorian literature and suggest the ways in which late Victorian texts anticipate modernist themes and techniques;
5. Analyse the distinctive characteristics of major authors and works within the cultural context of the period.

METHOD OF TEACHING

AND LEARNING:

Teaching and learning strategies include:

- Lectures, class discussions, workshop-style pair work and group work during class meetings;
- Formative exercises and other learning tasks assigned to help students acquire confidence and benefit from independent study;
- Timely instructor feedback on assignments;
- Additional print and audiovisual educational material posted on the Blackboard course template;
- Other relevant educational material placed on reserve in the library;

- Individualized assistance during office hours for further discussion of lecture material, additional reading, assignments and examinations;
- Close collaboration with Librarian and Writing Center Coordinator to encourage students' effective use of academic support services;
- Discussion of disciplinary research methods and tools to facilitate the completion of assigned research projects.

ASSESSMENT:

Formative coursework	0%	Essay drafts, research activities, and all other in-class and out-of-class assignments in preparation for the examination and the research project
SUMMATIVE Coursework		
Midterm examination	30%	1-hour in-class explication of two extracts and one take-home Essay question (1,000 words; 24-hr response margin); choice of extracts and Essay questions offered
Extended Research Project (3,000 words)	70%	12-page analysis of author(s) and work(s) developed through close reading and secondary sources; choice of topics

The formative coursework prepares students for successful completion of the summative coursework.

The extended research project tests learning outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5.

The midterm examination tests learning outcomes 1 and 5.

READING**MATERIAL:**

Greenblatt, Stephen, ed. *The Norton Anthology of English Literature*, Volume 2. New York: Norton, latest edition. [Core Textbook]

Novels: Charles Dickens, *Great Expectations* [Core Text]

And any ONE of the following novels [Core Text]:

Emily Bronte, *Wuthering Heights*

Bram Stoker, *Dracula*

R L Stevenson, *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*

Elizabeth Gaskell, *North and South*

All novel texts are *Oxford World's Classics* paperback editions.

N. Bradbury. *Great Expectations*. St Martin's, 1990.

D. David, ed. *The Cambridge Companion to the Victorian Novel*. 2001.

P. Morris. *Realism*. Routledge, 2003.

Francis O’Gorman. *Victorian Poetry: An Annotated Anthology*. Blackwell, 2004.

Paul Schlicke, ed. *The Oxford Reader’s Companion to Dickens*. 1999.

H. F. Tucker, ed. *A Companion to Victorian Literature and Culture*. Blackwell, 1999.

Dennis Walder, ed. *The Realist Novel*. Routledge, 1995.

**COMMUNICATION
REQUIREMENTS:**

With the exception of the in-class examination, all written work must be word-processed on Word and adhere to MLA guidelines for manuscript format and documentation.

**SOFTWARE
REQUIREMENTS:**

Word, Blackboard

WWW RESOURCES:

www.victorianweb.org/victorian/victov.html

INDICATIVE CONTENT:

1. Major traits of the Victorian Age
2. Utilitarianism, Materialism, Rationalism, Liberalism
3. Social Reform and the Myth of Progress
4. Suffrage and the Question of Women
5. The Oxford Movement and Religious Doubt
6. Art, Culture, and Anarchy
7. Aesthetics, Education, and Science
8. Realism and the Novel
9. The Gothic Element and Sensationalism
10. The Artist and Society
11. The Dramatic Element in Poetry

READING LIST:

In addition to the primary texts studied during the semester, students will also read all introductory materials, including the general introductions and introductions to each assigned author.

1. **Thomas Carlyle**

(excerpts from all or a longer selection from at least one of the following works)
From *Sartor Resartus* (“The Everlasting No” or “The Everlasting Yea”)
From *Past and Present* (“Captains of Industry”)

2. **John Stuart Mill**

(excerpts from all or a longer selection from at least one of the following works)
From *On Liberty* (“Of Individuality”)
From *Autobiography* (“A Crisis in My Mental History”)

3. **John Henry Newman**

From *The Idea of a University* (excerpts from Discourses 7 and 8)

4. **Alfred, Lord Tennyson**

“The Lotos Eaters”
From *Idylls of the King* (*Lancelot and Elaine* or *The Coming of Arthur*)
In Memoriam A. H. H. (selected lyrics)

5. **Robert Browning**

“The Bishop Orders His Tomb”
“Fra Lippo Lippi”

6. **Matthew Arnold**

“The Buried Life”

“The Scholar Gypsy”

From *Culture and Anarchy* (“Sweetness and Light”)

7. **Charles Dickens**

Great Expectations

8. Any **ONE** of the following novels:

Emily Bronte, *Wuthering Heights*

Bram Stoker, *Dracula*

R L Stevenson, *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*

Elizabeth Gaskell, *North and South*

9. **Dante Gabriel Rossetti**

“The Blessed Damozel”

“My Sister's Sleep”

10. **Christina Rossetti**

Goblin Market