

English 218.01: Studies in the Victorian Period

Fall 2021 Professor: Jan Susina

Class Meets: Tuesday & Thursday 11:00 am – 12:15 pm

Meeting Place: STV 221-B

Office: Stevenson: 402 Phone: (309) 438-3739 Email: jcsusina@ilstu.edu

Web site: <http://ghostofthetalkingcricket.squarespace.com>

Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 12:30—1:30 pm. Office Hours will be held on Zoom.

Tentative Syllabus:

Aug. 17: Introduction and Overview to the Course.

Aug. 19: “Victoria Era” Susie Steinback/ *Britannica*, “What Happened During the Victorian Empire?” & “Timeline for Victorian Empire” Royal Museums Greenwich, & “Queen Victoria” (pdf on website).

Aug. 24: *Victorian Prose & Poetry*: “Victorian Prose” (3-13), “Matthew Arnold’s Prose” (200-54), Matthew Arnolds’s “Matthew Arnold’s Poetry” (579-615).

Aug. 26: *Victorian Prose & Poetry*: “Thomas Carlyle” (13-71).

Sign up for Film Adaptation of Victorian Novel or Play.

Aug. 31: *Victorian Prose & Poetry*: “John Ruskin (154-200).

Victorian Prose & Poetry: “Victorian Art” (section between 400-401).

Sept. 2: Emily Bronte’s *Wuthering Heights* (chapters 1-11).

Sept. 7: Emily Bronte’s *Wuthering Heights* (chapter 12-20).

Sept. 9: Emily Bronte’s *Wuthering Heights* (chapters 21-34).

Paper #1: Film Adaptation of Nineteenth Century Novel Due.

Sept. 14: Charles Dickens’s *Hard Times* (Book the First: Sowing).

Sept. 16: Charles Dickens’ *Hard Times* (Book the Second: Reaping).

Sept. 21: Charles Dickens’s *Hard Times* (Book the Third: Garnering).

Sept. 23: Friedrich Engels’s *The Condition of the Working Class in England in 1844* & Karl Marx’ and Friedrich Engels’s *The Communist Manifesto*: Preface & chapter 1 (pdf on website).

Sept. 28: Charles Darwin’s *On The Origins of Species & Autobiography* (pdf on website).

- Sept. 30: Victorian Photography: Oscar Rejlander, Julia Margaret Cameron, Lewis Carroll & Lady Clementina Hawarden.
- Oct. 5: **Midterm Exam** (Bring a Blue Book to class).
- Oct. 7: Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*.
- Oct. 12: Lewis Carroll's *Alice Through the Looking-Glass*.
Proposal for Critical Paper Due (250 words)
- Oct. 14: *Victorian Poetry & Prose*: Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest* (340-390).
- Oct. 19: *Victorian Poetry & Prose*: "Alfred Lord Tennyson" (394-491).
- Oct. 21: *Victorian Poetry & Prose*: "Robert Browning" (492-579) & "Elizabeth Barrett Browning" (691-692) & (pdf on website).
- Oct. 26: *Victorian Poetry & Prose*: "Dante Gabriel Rossetti" (615-632), "Christina Rossetti (640-643) & Christina Rossetti's "Goblin Market" (pdf on website)
- Oct. 28: Anna Sewell's *Black Beauty*: (Part One & Two).
- Nov. 2: Anna Sewell's *Black Beauty*: (Part Three & Part Four).
- Nov. 4: Thomas Hardy's *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*: (Phase the First: The Maiden)
Paper #2: Critical Paper Due.
- Nov. 9: Thomas Hardy's *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*: (Phase the Second: Maiden No More) & (Phase the Third: The Rally).
- Nov. 11: Thomas Hardy's *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*: (Phase the Fourth: The Consequences) & (Phase the Fifth: The Woman Pays).
- Nov. 16: Thomas Hardy's *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*: (Phase the Sixth: The Covert) & (Phase the Seventh: Fulfillment).
- Nov. 18: Robert Louis Stevenson's *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*.
- Nov. 23: Thanksgiving Break -- no class.
- Nov. 25: Thanksgiving Break -- no class.
- Nov. 30: Joseph Conrad's *The Heart of Darkness* & Mary Seacole's *Wonderful Adventures of Mrs. Seacole in Many Lands*: chapters 1 and 13 (pdf on website).

Dec. 2: Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*. –
 “A Scandal in Bohemia,” “The Case of Identity,” “The Red-headed League,”
 “The Bascombe Valley Mystery,” “The Man with the Twisted Lip,” “The Blue
 Carbuncle,” “The Speckled Band.”
 “Doyle’s Favorite Sherlock Holmes Stories” (pdf on website).

Dec. 6—10: **Final Exam** (TBA).

Goals of Course:

The Victorian art critic John Ruskin wrote, “All books are divisible into two classes, the books of the hour and the books of all time.” Although the texts that we will read in this course were popular and examine the contemporary issues of Ruskin’s time, they also transcend the Victorian period and speak to contemporary readers and address contemporary issues. While they reveal much of Victorian cultural assumptions, attitudes, political and social beliefs, they still challenge contemporary readers as they address complex and troubling issues. This course is intended to be an introduction and overview of Victorian literature and culture. The class will read a variety of novels, short stories, essays, poetry, drama, and fiction, as well as examine a selection of visual art and photography produced during the period

Required Texts:

Lionel Trilling & Harold Bloom, eds. *Victorian Poetry & Prose*. Oxford.
 Emily Bronte. *Wuthering Heights*. Penguin.
 Charles Dickens. *Hard Times*. Penguin.
 Lewis Carroll. *Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland & Through the Looking-Glass*.
 Penguin.
 Anna Sewell. *Black Beauty*. Puffin.
 Thomas Hardy. *Tess of D’Urbervilles*. Penguin.
 Robert Louis Stevenson. *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*. Signet Classics.
 Joseph Conrad. *The Heart of Darkness*. Signet.
 Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*. Dover.

Recommended Texts:

Richard Altick. *Victorian People & Ideas*. Norton.
 Modern Language Association. *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. 9th Ed.
 MLA.
 Critical readings will be available on my website or distributed as handouts in class.

Course Format:

Sessions of this class will be held both face-to-face and online via Zoom. Students are required to attend and participate in both the face-to-face sessions and Zoom sessions. Currently the requirement at ISU is that everyone—vaccinated or unvaccinated must wear masks while indoors all public buildings. That means students need to wear a mask while in Stevenson Hall and during the class. Students who are not wearing masks will be asked to leave the class and return wearing a mask.

The class will be reading and discussing a variety of Victorian texts including novels, short stories, poetry, drama, and nonfiction. Students need to read/view the assignments prior to class and be prepared to discuss them in class. There will be a significant amount of reading that will be expected to be completed before each class session. Students will write two critical papers and take two exams. There will be a series of short homework assignments and reading quizzes given throughout the semester. Class participation will be factored into the final grade. This means that class attendance and participation will be factored into the final grade.

Class Attendance:

As stated in the *Undergraduate Catalog*, students are responsible for attending class & completing all academic work. Make arrangements in advance with the instructor if you need to miss a class session due to participation in a sanctioned university activity or to fulfill a religious obligation. Class attendance is important and is intended to be a valuable experience. If you must miss class, you should have a good reason for your absence. Since you can't be two places at the same time, avoid scheduling other activities during class time. Students are expected to participate in class discussion and a portion of the final grade will be based on class discussion as well as comments contributed to chat for Zoom sessions. If you know you are going to miss a class, you should email the instructor by 10 a.m. the day of the class you will miss. If a student has to miss class due to an extended illness (3 or more consecutive class days) or for a bereavement, you should contact the Dean of Students at 309-438-2008 or visit their office in Room 387 of the Student Service Building.

Excused Students Absences Due to Communicable Disease:

If a student is required to be absent from class because of a required self-isolation or quarantine based on the directive of a public health official for a reason related to a communicable disease, the absence will be considered excused. Reasonable modifications/extensions will be offered for required work. For an absence to be excused the student must provide appropriate documentation of a required quarantine/self-isolation to the Student Health Services within 5 business days of the notification of the directive and arrange with the instructor to complete missed classroom work as soon as possible. Students are responsible for material covered in class. It is the student's responsible to read the missed material. Contact the instructor if you are in this situation.

Critical Paper:

Each student will write an 8–10-page/20,000-25,000-word critical paper on one of the Victorian texts read in common in the class. Students will write a short (250-word) proposal for their critical paper that needs to be approved by the instructor. Written work should conform to the format presented in the *MLA Handbook, 9th Edition* for appropriate quotation and citation. Critical papers need a minimum of **six** scholarly secondary sources in their Works Cited section. Written work submitted for this class needs to be your own and written specifically for this class.

Proposal for Critical Paper:

In preparation for writing your critical paper on a Victorian text, students will write a short proposal for their longer research project. The proposal should be at least 250 words in length and include a Works Cited section including least **four** possible secondary sources. The proposal needs to conform to the format provide in *The MLA Handbook*. *The MLA Handbook* shows how to cite material and how to create a Works Cited section. The proposal should have a working title, a description of the focus of your paper, and a Works Cites page with at least **four annotated** secondary sources.

Paper on a Film Adaptation of Victorian Text:

Each student will write a (3-5 page/750-1,250 words) analysis film adaptation of a Victorian texts from a list provided by the instructor. The paper should explore how the film adaptation modifies the original text to reach a more contemporary audience. The paper should address the reasons the film succeeds or fails as a contemporary film version of a nineteenth-century novel that both keeps true to the spirit of the original text but is also accessible to a contemporary audience. The paper should have a minimum of **three** cited sources. In addition to viewing the film, students will locate and read the entry for the film on Wikipedia and at least one film review of the film from either *The New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times* online, or Roger Ebert's website (rogerebert.com). The analysis should cite at least **two** of those secondary sources and **the film** itself. The film analysis paper should conform to the format found in *The MLA Handbook*.

List of Films for Film Adaptation Paper:

Before signing up for the film be sure that you have access to it. Watch the previews of several films at IMDB or YouTube before making your film selection.

John Madden's *Mrs. Brown* (1997).
 Andrea Arnold's *Wuthering Heights* (2011).
 Jon Amiel's *Creation* (2009).
 Tim Burton's *Alice in Wonderland* (2010).
 Caroline Thompson's *Black Beauty* (1994).
 Oliver Parker's *The Importance of Being Ernest* (2002).
 Brian Gilbert's *Wilde* (1998).
 Roman Polanski's *Tess* (1979).
 Stephen Frears's *Mary Reilly* (1996).
 Tim Burton's *Sweeney Todd* (2007).
 Francis Ford Coppola's *Apocalypse Now* (1979).
 Guy Ritchie's *Sherlock Homes* (2009).

Class Assignments:

Throughout the semester, students will be asked to complete a series of short homework assignments linked to the reading and class discussion. A student missing a class in which and a class assignment is given or a class when a homework assignment is due will be unable to turn in the assignment late. Throughout the semester, there will also be short reading quizzes. This will be factored into your Class Assignment section of your final grade.

Exams:

There will be an in-class midterm exam and a final exam in the course. The exams will include objective and short identification as well as essay questions. Students are asked to purchase blue books for both exams. The final exam will be given on the date assigned to the class according to the Fall 2021 final exam schedule.

Communication/Netiquette:

Given that a portion of this course will be conducted online, students and the instructor need to use appropriate netiquette or internet etiquette. Students should interact in a positive, cooperative, and supportive manner, and display respect for the privacy and rights of others. For Zoom classes students will need to have the video on, unless otherwise told. To preserve privacy, students are asked to have an appropriate virtual background screen. Students should dress appropriately for class: as you would for a typical face-to-face course. The following netiquette guidelines has been developed for ISU classes:

Keep questions & comments relevant to the topic. If another student posts a comment or question that is off topic, do not reply. The instructor will reply in private to the participant.

Be courteous & treat other students with respect, using the same standards of behavior online that would be appropriate in a face-to-face class discussion.

Be respectful & open to opinions & ideas that different from your own. Being deliberately hostile & insulting online is not appropriate. When responding to messages or posts made by others address the ideas not the individual.

Communication should be conducted in Standard American English to ensure understanding among diverse participants. Avoid using slang terms or texting abbreviations. Avoid using all caps in posts as it is interpreted as yelling.

Read all the messages in a thread before replying.

The instructor reserves the right to remove posts that are not collegial or fail to meet ISU netiquette guidelines.

Recording of Class Sessions:

Any recordings that the instructor makes are available for use only by students enrolled in the course. Recordings cannot be reproduced, shared with those not in the class, or uploaded to publicly accessible webs environments. Do not independently record the course without written permission of the instructor. Students who violate this policy may be subject to legal sanction for violations or copyright law & disciplinary action under ISU's Code of Student Conduct.

Student Access & Accommodation Services:

Any student needing to arrange a reasonable accommodation for a documented disability and/or medical/mental health condition should contact Student Access and Accommodation Services at 350 Fell, 309-438-5853, or visit StudentAccess.IllinoisState.edu. Students using this service, need to notify to instructor and provide the appropriate credentials.

Plagiarism/ Cheating:

Please review the Illinois State University policy in the *Undergraduate Catalog* under “Academic Integrity” and sections dealing with plagiarism” in the *MLA Handbook, 9th Edition* (pages 96-103) Plagiarism and cheating are serious academic offenses and will be punished by failure on an exam, paper, project, and in some situation can result in failure in the course and/or expulsion from the university. All written work submitted for this course needs to be your own and produced for this specific course. Please follow the *MLA Handbook* for appropriate format for quotations and citations for your written work.

Grading: Grades:

Grades will be based on the following point scale: Grades for papers: A+=100, A=95, A-92, B+= 87, B=85, B-=82, C+=77, C=75, C-=72, D+=67, D=65, D-=62, F=50. For the course grade, the following scale will be used A=90 and above, B=80 and above, C= 70 and above, D=60 and above, F=59 and below. Students earn grades by performance, not negotiation. If you have a question concerning a grade on an assignment or exam, contact me during my office hours to discuss it. Students should keep all grades assignments. The course grade will be based on the following assignments, which will be weighted as follows:

Grades will be assigned according to the following standard:

Film Adaptation of Victorian Text: 10%

Midterm Exam: 20%

Final Exam: 20%

Critical Paper: 30%

Class Assignments: 15%

Class Participation: 5%