

ENGLISH 535 Sec. 003
Term 2 2007
Friday 9:00-11:00
BuTo 597

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T 9-10, W 2-3, Th 2-3
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LATE-VICTORIAN THEORIES OF THE SELF

In this course, we will explore nineteenth-century theories of selfhood, mind, consciousness, and reason, and how these theories are elaborated in and by late-Victorian fiction. We will pay particular attention to “limit cases,” places where deeply (and dearly) held notions of rationality and self seem to break down: at the boundaries between animal and human, sane and insane, European and “other,” and natural and supernatural. While we will inevitably refer back to the mid-century Victorian novel (and forward to Freud), our focus will be on the later decades of the century as we try to understand fin-de-siècle literary experimentation in the context of monumental shifts in psychological theory and theories of the self.

COURSE READINGS

1. Texts

The following books are all available at the UBC Bookstore. Please use these editions, since we will need to be working together from the same source material:

Wilkie Collins, *Miss or Mrs?/The Haunted Hotel/The Guilty River* (Oxford)
Robert Louis Stevenson, *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* (Penguin)
H. Rider Haggard, *She* (Oxford)
Rudyard Kipling, *The Jungle Books* (Canbook Distribution)
Joseph Conrad, *Almayer's Folly* (Random House)
H. G. Wells, *The Invisible Man* (Penguin)
Richard Marsh, *The Beetle* (Broadview)
Rudyard Kipling, *Kim* (Penguin Puffin)

2. Supplemental Reading Materials

Supplemental materials will be made available (in Portable Document Format) on the course WebCT page, under “Readings.” The readings for each class will be available about 1-2 weeks in advance. Please be sure to download, print out, and **bring to class with you** each week’s supplemental readings; we will be referring to these texts extensively in class.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Discussion Questions

For each class, you will prepare a written response to the week’s readings. This response should take the form of 1-2 pages of writing (typed and double-spaced) reacting to the assigned readings for that week: see the addendum “Guidelines for Reading Responses” for detailed instructions and examples. Your response may be about the primary text for that week, the supplemental readings, or both. You need to do *two* administrative things with your response each week:

1. Email it to me as an attachment in either Microsoft Word or Rich Text Format (*not* PDF, and *not* in the body of your email) by 4:00 each Thursday. 2. Print it out and bring it to class with you. You will be asked to turn in the hard copy of your response at the end of class each Friday.

2. Annotated Bibliography

Each class member will prepare an annotated bibliography on a topic relevant to the course, and will present this bibliography in class. A list of bibliography topics, along with a fuller description of the assignment, is in an addendum to the syllabus. Once the topics have been assigned, a list of bibliographies and presenters—along with the bibliographies themselves—will be available on the course WebCT page.

3. Final Research Paper

Each class member must write a final research paper, approximately 20 typed and double-spaced pages, due April 22. You will develop the topic for this paper on your own; I will ask you for preliminary topic ideas by March 23 at the latest.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Jan. 12: Course introduction and requirements
Wilkie Collins, *The Guilty River*

Jan. 19: Wilkie Collins, *The Haunted Hotel*
Supplemental readings (on WebCT page): from *Victorian Literary Mesmerism*; from *Reality's Dark Light*
Annotated bibliography: Victorian Telepathy

Jan. 26: Robert Louis Stevenson, *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*
Supplemental readings: on WebCT page
Annotated bibliography: Insanity and Psychopathology

Feb. 2: H. Rider Haggard, *She*
Supplemental readings: on WebCT page
Annotated bibliography: Orientalism

Feb. 9: H. Rider Haggard, *She*
Supplemental readings: on WebCT page
Annotated bibliography: Theories of the Animal/Human Boundary

Feb. 16: Rudyard Kipling, *The Jungle Books*
Supplemental readings: on WebCT page
Annotated bibliography: Psychology of Colonized Peoples

Feb. 19-23: NO CLASS; SPRING BREAK

- Mar. 2: Joseph Conrad, *Almayer's Folly*
Supplemental readings: on WebCT page
Annotated bibliography 1: T. H. Huxley and Alexander Bain
Annotated bibliography 2: Herbert Spencer's Psychology
- Mar. 9: H. G. Wells, *The Invisible Man*
Supplemental readings: on WebCT page
Annotated bibliography: G. H. Lewes's Psychology
- Mar. 16: NO CLASS
- Mar. 19 [or other rescheduled day]: Richard Marsh, *The Beetle*
Supplemental readings: on WebCT page
Annotated bibliography: Emil Kraepelin and Henry Maudsley
- Mar. 23: Richard Marsh, *The Beetle*
Supplemental readings: on WebCT page
Annotated bibliography: Victorian "Discovery" of Buddhism and Hinduism
- Mar. 30: Rudyard Kipling, *Kim*
Supplemental readings: on WebCT page
Annotated bibliography: William James
- Apr. 13: Rudyard Kipling, *Kim*
Supplemental readings: on WebCT page
Annotated bibliography: Victorian Theories of Race

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY TOPICS

Each class member will prepare an annotated bibliography on one of the following topics, and will present this bibliography in class. Bibliographies should include both Victorian and contemporary (modern) critical material, and will vary in length depending on topic, but certainly should be at least 3 pages. Annotations can be anywhere from a line or two to a full paragraph for more important works; of course it is not necessary to read in full every work on your list, but you should familiarize yourself—by reading introductions and skimming judiciously—with the major works, ideas, and themes in the field. Presentations should be about 15 minutes, and should be designed to give fellow seminar members as much information about the topic as possible. Please see me if you need any help getting started with your bibliography.

1/19: Victorian Telepathy: Rose Casey

1/26: Insanity and Psychopathology: Jared Morrow

2/2: Orientalism: Jason Somers

2/9: Theories of the Animal/Human Boundary: ---

2/16: Psychology of Colonized Peoples: Medha Samarasinghe

3/2: T. H. Huxley and Alexander Bain: Michiel Nys

3/9: Herbert Spencer's and G. H. Lewes's Psychology: Bryan Thiessen

3/19: Emil Kraepelin and Henry Maudsley: Joanna Kordus

3/23: Victorian "Discovery" of Buddhism and Hinduism: Rebecca Campbell

3/30: William James: Sean McAlister

4/13: Victorian Theories of Race: Leanne Page