

ENGLISH 535A
Summer Term 2 2012
TTH 10:00-1:00
BuTo 597

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VICTORIAN SPACES

In this course we will analyze various conceptions of interiority—architectural, psychological, and literary—and narrative structures in the Victorian and early-Modernist novel. The 1851 census defined a family as the “persons under one head” who enjoyed “the exclusive command of the entrance-hall and stairs—and the possession of the free space between the ground and sky.” The interior spaces of Victorian domestic architecture were thus seen as constitutive of the family and the individual, particularly when considered in contradistinction to the outdoor public spaces that simultaneously threatened dissolution and afforded freedom to the stroller, the shopper, and the poet. Our avenues of investigation in this course will thus include Victorian domestic architecture and interiors and urban and street spaces such as arcades and parks. We will read novels and critical and aesthetic theory (both nineteenth-century and contemporary) in an attempt to understand the felt connections between the literal spaces of the home and city and the metaphorical spaces of the psyche and the body.

COURSE READINGS

1. Texts

You may choose whichever editions of the course texts you like, but I strongly recommend that it be a scholarly edition with footnotes. You are welcome to use either electronic or paper editions. We will read the following novels:

[Charlotte Brontë, *Jane Eyre*](#) [recommended electronic version at link]

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

Lewis Carroll, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*

Edwin Abbott, *Flatland: A Romance of Many Dimensions*

E. M. Forster, *Howards End*

2. Other Reading Materials

Critical and secondary reading materials will be made available electronically; all you need to do to access them is click on the appropriate link(s) in the syllabus. The links are of two types: downloadable files (PDFs) and links to articles on UBC Library databases; the type is indicated next to each link in the syllabus. In order to download a PDF, click on the link (which will take you to a Dropbox browser window) and then hit the “Download” button in the upper right-hand corner of the window. In order to access a UBC link, you must either be on campus or enter your CWL password at the prompt if you are off-campus. Please be sure to **bring the readings to class with you in some form** each week, either by bringing a laptop or some other reading device to class, or by printing out and bringing hard copies if you prefer; we will be referring to these texts extensively in class and will need to have them before us.

3. Reserve Books

There is a substantial number of primary source materials and secondary criticism on reserve in the Koerner Library. This includes all the books from which I have drawn chapters for weekly course readings, as well as many other things that are not on the syllabus. You are *strongly* encouraged to peruse these materials at your leisure: for your class discussion leading (if you are so inclined) as well as your research papers and, of course, your general edification and interest.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Discussion Leading

For each class, one student will be in charge of leading class discussion for the first half of the class. This means coming to class with whatever questions, background materials, or prompts that you feel will help facilitate discussion of the day's readings. You may do a formal presentation on some aspect of the readings or on further background research you have done; you may distribute questions for discussion; you may show images or a visual presentation; in short, you may do whatever you like to get the ball rolling. You will receive a formal grade for your efforts (as I believe this encourages taking the assignment seriously); that grade will be based on the thoroughness, thoughtfulness, and cogency of your preparation. 20% of Grade

2. Class Discussion

I hope it goes without saying that you are all expected to participate in class discussion. I realize that some folks are chattier than others, but please do your best within the parameters of your personality and comfort level. 20% of Grade

3. Final Research Paper

Each class member must write a formal research paper, no more than 6500 words, due Friday, August 24th, at 5:00 p.m. **Please note:** If you want to receive your course mark on time, you *must* submit your paper by this date; otherwise, you need to arrange for deferred standing—you are responsible for doing this yourself. 60% of Grade

COURSE SCHEDULE

- July 10:** **Background readings I: The Interior and the House**
[Chase and Levenson, *The Spectacle of Intimacy*, intro & chap. 7](#) [PDF]
[Logan, *The Victorian Parlour*, chap. 1](#) [PDF]
[Donald, "Tranquil Havens?"](#) [PDF]
- July 12:** **Background readings II: Theories of the Interior**
[Lefebvre, *The Production of Space*, pp. 1-14, 80-99](#) [PDF]
[Vidler, *The Architectural Uncanny*, intro & chap. 1](#) [PDF]
[Rice, *The Emergence of the Interior*, chap. 1](#) [PDF]
- July 17:** ***Jane Eyre***
[Chase, *Eros & Psyche*, chap. 3](#) [PDF]
[Chase and Levenson, *The Spectacle of Intimacy*, chap. 8](#) [PDF]
[Klotz, "Rearranging Furniture in *Jane Eyre* and *Villette*"](#) [UBC]

- July 19:** *Jane Eyre*
[Locy, "Travel and Space in Charlotte Brontë's *Jane Eyre*"](#) [UBC]
[Bewell, "*Jane Eyre* and Victorian Medical Geography"](#) [UBC]
[Bellis, "In the Window Seat: Vision and Power in *Jane Eyre*"](#) [UBC]
- July 24:** **Background Readings III: The City, The Museum, The Crystal Palace**
[Teukolsky, *The Literate Eye*, chap. 2](#) [PDF]
[Armstrong, *Victorian Glassworlds*, intro & chap. 6](#) [UBC]
[De Certeau, *The Practice of Everyday Life*, chap. 7](#) [PDF]
- July 26:** *Jekyll and Hyde*
[Dryden, "'City of Dreadful Night': Stevenson's Gothic London"](#) [UBC]
[essay also available [in Part III of this ebrary text](#)]
- July 31:** *Alice in Wonderland*
[Steedman, *Strange Dislocations*, intro.](#) [PDF]
- August 2:** *Alice in Wonderland*
[Throesch, "Nonsense in the Fourth Dimension of Literature"](#) [PDF]
[Meier, "Photographic Wonderland"](#) [PDF]
- August 7:** *Flatland*
[Richards, *Mathematical Visions*, chap. 2](#) [PDF]
[Valente, "Who Will Explain the Explanation?"](#) [UBC]
- August 9:** *Howards End*
[Rosner, *Modernism and the Architecture of Private Life*, chaps. 1 & 5](#) [PDF]
- August 14:** *Howards End*
[Hegglund, "Defending the Realm"](#) [UBC]
- August 16:** **Wrap-up: Presentation of Final Paper Topics**