

ENGLISH 535B, Sec. 002
Term 2 2010-11
Thursday 9:30-11:30
BuTo 597

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Office Hours by appointment
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TOPICS AND RESEARCH IN VICTORIAN STUDIES

This course will serve as an introduction to advanced research in the British Victorian period, and thus will be suitable both for those students with little familiarity with the period and for those who contemplate further graduate work in Victorian studies. Our goals will be three-fold: 1. To discuss the large social, historical, and philosophical themes of the period, including political reform, gender issues, religious crisis, evolution and science, and empire; 2. To acquire (or deepen) familiarity with major Victorian texts and authors; 3. To gain an understanding of the central theoretical and methodological issues confronting Victorianist scholars at the moment.

COURSE READINGS

1. Texts

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

Charlotte Brontë, *Jane Eyre* (Broadview)
Charles Dickens, *Great Expectations* (Broadview)
Thomas Hardy, *Tess of the d'Urbervilles* (Broadview)
Bram Stoker, *Dracula* (Broadview)

2. Supplemental Reading Materials

Supplemental materials will be available (in Portable Document Format) on the course Vista page, under "Readings." 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. Reading Responses

For each class, you will prepare a formal response to the week's readings. This response should be the equivalent of 1-2 pages of typed, double-spaced writing reacting to the assigned readings for that week: see the handout "Guidelines for Reading Responses" on the course Vista page (under "Assignments") 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 the class listserv (including 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 Wednesday. 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 Thursday. You may "skip" up to two weekly responses over the course of the semester. You are encouraged to read your colleagues' responses in addition to posting your own.

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 available on the course Vista page. Once the topics have been assigned, a list of bibliographies and presenters—along with the bibliographies themselves—will be available on the course Vista page.

3. Final Research Paper

Each class member must write a final research paper, approximately 20 typed and double-spaced pages, due May 5. **Please note:** If you want to receive your course mark on time, you *must* submit your paper by this date; otherwise, you must arrange for deferred standing—you are responsible for doing this yourself. You will develop the topic for this paper on your own; I will ask you for preliminary topic ideas by early April at the latest.

COURSE SCHEDULE

- Jan. 6: Introduction, syllabus, preliminary questions
- Jan. 13: Charles Dickens, *Great Expectations*
Supplemental readings: Freedgood; Kincaid; Rose
- Jan. 20: *Great Expectations*
Supplemental readings: Cohen; Lesjak; Gallagher
Annotated bibliography: Crime & The Legal System
- Jan. 27: Charlotte Brontë, *Jane Eyre*
Supplemental readings: Gettelman; Gilbert; Kreilkamp; Lane
Annotated bibliography: Status of Women
- Feb. 3: *Jane Eyre*
Supplemental readings: Lee; Robbins; Spivak; Thomas
Annotated bibliography: Empire and (Post-)Colonialism
- Feb. 10: Recent directions in Victorian studies
Supplemental readings: on Vista page
Annotated bibliography: Darwin & Evolution
- Feb. 24: *Guest Professor/Visitor Jen Hill*
Supplemental readings: on Vista page
- Mar. 3: NO CLASS
- Mar. 10: Bram Stoker, *Dracula*
Supplemental readings: Arata; Herbert; Senf; Craft
Annotated bibliography: Technology

Mar. 17: *Dracula*

Supplemental readings: Armstrong; Schaffer; Stevenson; Moretti

Annotated bibliography: Political Economy

Mar. 24: Thomas Hardy, *Tess of the d'Urbervilles*

Supplemental readings: Nishimura; Wickens; Bernstein; Higgonet

Annotated bibliography: Sex & Sexuality

Mar. 31: *Tess of the d'Urbervilles*

Supplemental readings: Law; Nunokawa; Rooney

Annotated bibliography: Religion & Spirituality

Apr. 7: Recent directions in Victorian studies

Supplemental readings: on Vista page

Annotated bibliography: Medicine & Health