

Spring 1-15-2018

## ENG 3807-001: Victorian Literature

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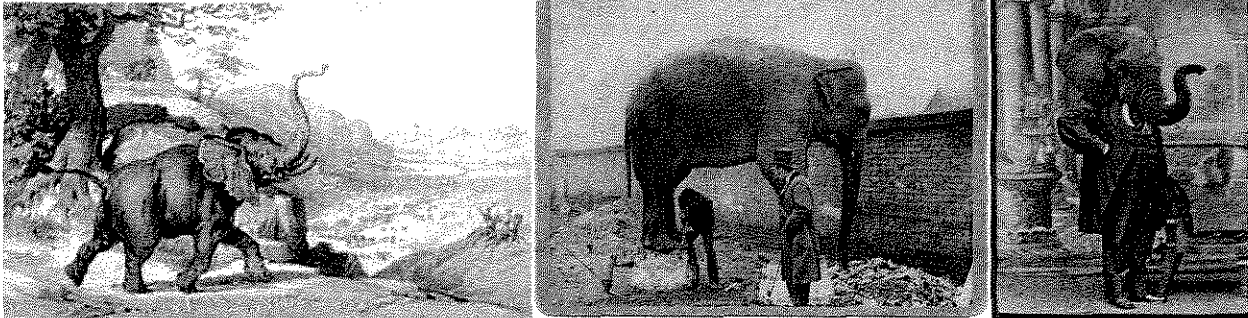
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English 3807-001 CRN 30554  
Victorian Literature "Animal Lives/Animal Stories"  
MWF 11:00-11:50 am / CH 3170

Dr. Dagni Bredesen  
Office Hours in Coleman Hall 3751  
Mondays—10-10:50 am. Tuesday—2-3 p.m., or by appointment  
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**Course Description:**

Queen Victoria's reign spanned sixty-four years (1837-1901) and saw England change from a rural and agrarian nation to an industrialized imperial world power. In an era in which all dimensions of society, the natural world and even the realm of the supernatural were acutely examined, animals became the focus of social and scientific consideration. The question "What is our responsibility to the animals among us?" launched the animal rights movement and led to the founding of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) in 1836. Charles Darwin's groundbreaking *Origin of the Species* (1859) blurred boundaries between the human and animal worlds and raised the question "To what extent are human beings different from and similar to animals?" A fascination with the relationship of animals and human beings expressed itself in literature, science, music, art, and entertainment during the Victorian period (1837-1901) in England and throughout the British Empire. Stories about animals found in children's books, detective mysteries and science fiction, as well as in novels and poetry became a way for Victorians then (and us now) to think about big questions concerning self and society, humanity and the planet.

**Learning Objectives:** In the course of reading a diverse range of texts, students will expand their knowledge of genres as well as historical, cultural and scientific contexts and will demonstrate enhanced skills in critical thinking, independent research and written and oral communication.

**Requirements** include attendance, participation, and intellectual collaboration based on careful reading of assigned texts. Assignments will include in-class writing and formal essays, presentations, some independent research, a mid-term and final exam.

**Texts:**

*Hard Times* by Charles Dickens  
*Understanding the Victorians* by Susie Steinbach  
*Black Beauty* by Anna Sewell  
*The Jungle Books* by Rudyard Kipling  
*The Island of Dr. Moreau* by H.G. Wells  
*Beautiful Joe* by Margaret Saunders  
\*And selected readings, short stories, poems, essays that will be distributed in class or posted on D2L

"The Past is a Foreign Country; they do things differently there."  
L.P. Hartley

Assignments:

The following assignments will foster the active engagement necessary to make this a productive and exciting learning experience.

**I. Papers:** Two 4-page essays (10% and 15% respectively)

One Research-based paper and presentation with annotated bibliography due week fourteen (15%)

**II. Examinations:** Mid-term (15%) and Final (15%)

**III. Other:** Index to *Hard Times* (5%); Historical Briefs (5%); Discussion Partnerships (5%), In-class Writing/Quizzes (5%); Contributions, Participation and Citizenship (10%)

### COURSE POLICIES

CLASS ATTENDANCE, punctuality, preparation, and participation are expected and required. You are presumed to be professionals-in-training responsible for attending class regularly and participating in discussion. Furthermore, I can't teach you if you aren't in class. In order to deal with unforeseen emergencies, you are allowed to miss up to the equivalent of one week of class (3 classes over the course of the semester) without documented excuse. Any additional absences will, however, be penalized at a rate of one letter grade per two class meetings; any student who is absent for more than nine classes (equivalent of three weeks) will earn a grade of F for the course.

ASSIGNMENTS need to be completed by class time on the date that they appear on the course schedule. The book(s) in which the day's assigned readings are contained should be brought to class. Unannounced quizzes on assigned material may be given at any time. There will be no opportunity to make up missed quizzes or in-class writing assignments. Students are responsible for material covered in class and announcements or assignments made in class as well as for assignments on the syllabus. I strongly suggest finding one or two classmates who can serve as "study-buddies."

MAJOR TESTS AND EXAMS will be written in test booklets that I will provide. Announced tests and exams must be taken at the scheduled time. Except in cases of DOCUMENTED emergency or official university absence arranged ahead of time, there will be no opportunity to make up mid-term or final exams.

ALL PAPERS AND OTHER WRITTEN WORK must be handed in on the date due. Work turned in late without advance clearance will not be accepted. Any work turned in late with clearance will be penalized, usually at the rate of 5 points per day (not per class meeting) of lateness. Additionally, late submission may delay the grading and return of the paper, perhaps until semester's end. BE SURE TO KEEP A COPY OF EVERY PAPER YOU HAND IN. In the case of a missing paper, the student is responsible for supplying a copy.

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS: I may require different formats for your papers and will specify accordingly.

DOCUMENTATION: Use the MLA system to cite all primary and secondary sources used in preparation of your papers. Also, be sure to introduce sources in your text. Each student should have access to the latest edition of *The MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, and to a handbook of usage and mechanics.

RESPONSIBLE USE OF ELECTRONIC MEDIA: Please keep in mind that electronic media materials must be documented as conscientiously and accurately as any other material. Be aware also that it is necessary to ascertain the authority, reliability, and accuracy of all materials and that it may be particularly difficult to do so in the case of electronic media. Be sure to evaluate and clearly identify any source of information, analysis, or opinion; process material from electronic sources as critically and creatively as you do print sources. Check with the Writing Center for up-to-date documentation conventions. DOWNLOADING IS NOT RESEARCH.

ACADEMIC HONESTY: All written work (papers, exams, tests, quizzes) must be prepared independently; all sources and background material (print, electronic, or other) must be digested and acknowledged. Make to understand the meaning of plagiarism and the policy of the English Department:

*Any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism--"the appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and/or thoughts of another author and representation of them as one's original work" (Random House Dictionary of the English Language)--has the right and the responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including immediate assignment of the grade of **F** for the writing in which plagiarism occurs and a grade of **F** for the course, as well as to report the incident to the university's Judicial Affairs Office. Respect for the work of others should encompass all formats, including print, electronic, and oral sources.*

STUDENTS WITH DOCUMENTED DISABILITIES: If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodation, please note that arrangements must be made through the Office of Disability Services; you should, therefore, contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.

Please note: All email communication should include the course number and your last name in the subject line. I prefer a courteous salutation to a casual "yo, professor" and full sentences to text speak.

Monday	WEDNESDAY	FRIDAY
<b>JANUARY</b> 8 <b>Intro to course, texts, topic, each other and two poems</b> Assignment Read Steinbach, "Introduction". Bring Steinbach and <i>Hard Times</i> to class	10 Intro to <i>Hard Times</i> In class ch 1-2 Index assignment For 01/12: Read <i>HT</i> pp 12-51 Steinbach ch 1	12 Discuss Reading: For 01/17: Read <i>HT</i> pp 51-134 Steinbach ch 4
<b>M.L. KING'S BIRTHDAY</b> 15  <b>NO CLASSES</b>	17 Discuss Reading For 01/19 Read <i>HT</i> : 134-162 Steinbach ch 2 First Paper Topics Distributed (due 01/26)	19 Discuss Reading For 01/22 Finish <i>Hard Times</i> Steinbach ch 7
22 Closure in <i>Hard Times</i> Reform and Animals <b>Historical Brief 1:</b> The Establishment of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty for Animals	24 Paper 1 Due/In class Workshop Conferences: Th/Fr	26 <b>Historical Brief 2: Victorian Zoos</b> Assigned Readings: TBA Steinbach ch 13
29 Charles Darwin <i>The Descent of Man</i> guest: Dr. Richard England, Dean of the Honors College Link on D2L	31 Darwin <i>The Descent of Man</i> (selected readings) guest: Dr. Richard England Link on D2L	2 <b>FEBRUARY</b> Darwin <i>The Expression of Emotions in Animals and Man</i> guest: Dr. Richard England Link on D2L For Monday 02/05 read: "Flush, or Faunus" and "To Flush, my Dog" by Elizabeth Barrett Browning (Handout) France Power Cobbe's <i>Confessions of a Lost Dog</i> Link on D2L
5 Animal Autobiography Discuss <i>Confessions of a Lost Dog</i> <b>Historical Brief 3:</b> Victorian Domestic Pets Read: Intro to <i>Black Beauty</i>	7 <i>Black Beauty</i> Book 1 <b>Historical Brief 4:</b> Bearing Reins, Blinkers and Bobtails: Attempts to reform the working conditions of horses.	9 <b>Discussion Partnership 2: Black Beauty</b> Book 2 Steinbach ch 6
12 Finish discussion: <i>Black Beauty</i> Read: Kipling's the "Mark of the Beast" Steinbach Chapter 3: "Ruling the World" <i>Midterm Study Sheet Distributed</i>	14 <b>Historical Brief 5:</b> British Colonial India—The Jewel in England's Crown Discuss "The Mark of the Beast" Assignment: Read selections from <i>The Jungle Books</i> <b>Discuss Midterm</b>	16 <b>LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY</b> <b>NO CLASSES</b>
19 <b>No Class Today</b> Continue Reading <i>The Jungle Books</i>	21 <b>MIDTERM</b>	23 <b>Historical Brief 6:</b> The Writing, Publication, Public Reception and Afterlife of <i>The Jungle Books</i>

26 <b>Discussion Partnership 2:</b> <i>The Jungle Books</i> <b>Historical Brief 7:</b> Victorian Exotic Pets	28 Finish Discussion of the <i>Jungle Books</i> <b>Historical Brief 8:</b> Vivisection Debates	2 <b>MARCH</b> Animals and Science Dean Richard England, guest scholar.  Intro to <i>The Island of Dr. Moreau</i>  Topics for Paper 2 Distributed
5 <b>Discussion Partnership 3:</b> <i>Island of Dr. Moreau</i>	7 <i>Island of Dr. Moreau</i>	9 NO CLASS
12 SPRING BREAK	14 SPRING BREAK	16 SPRING BREAK
19 Finish Discussion of <i>The Island of Dr. Moreau</i> Intro to Victorian Poetry about Animals: Tennyson, Rossetti, Lear and...	21 <b>Paper Two Due/ Conferences (Th/Fr)</b> Victorian Poetry about Animals  <b>Historical Brief 9:</b> Victorian Circuses	23 <b>Discussion Partnership 4</b> Victorian Poetry about Animals
26 Intro to research project: The Victorian Web and Beyond  <b>Assignment:</b> Make a list of ten reputable websites focused on Victorian British Literature, History, Culture and five on Animal studies. Submit to D2L	28 Library Workshop: Primary Sources <b>Revision Paper 2 Due</b>	30 Library: Primary Sources
2 APRIL  Thesis Workshop <b>Conferences w/Dr. B T/Th</b>  Read Assigned Essay and mark thesis, topic sentences, transitions, pivots, evidence.	4 Secondary Sources Reading and Annotating Scholarly Essays  and Annotate. Submit to D2L Dropbox	6 Bring Assigned Annotated Essay to Class plus two scholarly essays that pertain to your topic.  "They Say, I say" Using other people's ideas.
9 Introductions: Bring your introductions to class and submit to D2L	11 Body Paragraphs: 2 pages of your paper 3 copies. Key Sentences	13 Intro: <i>Beautiful Joe</i> <b>Historical Brief 10:</b> Animal Rights in Canada (and the Empire) at the Turn of the Century.
16 <b>Discussion Partnership 5:</b> <i>Beautiful Joe</i>	18 <i>Beautiful Joe</i>	20 <b>Argument-Driven, Research Informed Paper Due (including works cited), with Reverse Outline as your cover page.</b>
23 Presentations	25 Presentations	27 <b>LAST CLASS DAY</b>

**Final Exam~Tuesday, May 1: 12:30-2:30 pm**  
Semester closes/Grades due – May 7 at 4 p.m.