Spring 1-15-2011

ENG 3807-001: Victorian Literature

Richard Sylvia
Eastern Illinois University

Follow this and additional works at: http://thekeep.eiu.edu/english_syllabi_spring2011

Part of the English Language and Literature Commons

Recommended Citation
http://thekeep.eiu.edu/english_syllabi_spring2011/98

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the 2011 at The Keep. It has been accepted for inclusion in Spring 2011 by an authorized administrator of The Keep. For more information, please contact tabruns@eiu.edu.
English 3807: Victorian Literature
TR 11:00 – 12:15; CH 3160
Spring 2011
Professor Richard Sylvia
Office: Coleman 3775; Office Hours: TWR 9:30 – 10:30 and MF by appointment
Phone: 581-6292 (office); Email: rasylvia@eiu.edu

Texts:
Dickens, *Hard Times*
Eliot, *The Mill on the Floss*
Mundhenk, *Victorian Prose: An Anthology* (VPR)
O’Gorman, *Victorian Poetry: An Annotated Anthology* (VP)

Course Description, Design, Methods, and Goals:
This course will introduce you to the major social, historical, and literary developments in England during the reign of Queen Victoria, 1837 to 1901. Class reading assignments include selections from the fiction, poetry, and non-fictional prose of the period. Please prepare these readings carefully and come to class prepared to contribute to class discussions. Our goal is to work toward an understanding of the period, generally, and to develop insight into how each of the writers on the syllabus contributes to the Victorian frame of mind.

Some works you might find quite difficult. Do not be discouraged. Do the best you can and come to class willing to share your responses, to ask questions, and to improve your understanding. To help you retain the material of the course, I will assign weekly in-class writing assignments and have scheduled four exams during the semester.

Requirements and Grades:
careful preparation of assigned reading
regular participation in class discussions – 10%
weekly in class writing – 10%
four exams – 80%

Course Policies
Attendance at all class meetings is expected but not required. However, in-class writing cannot be made up, and exams are based on class discussions and lectures.

If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) asap.

I enforce the English Department Statement on Plagiarism: "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 own original work' (Random House Dictionary) – has the right and the responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including immediate assignment of a grade of F for the course, and to report the incident to the Judicial Affairs Office."
Tentative Schedule

Jan. 11: introduction to course

Society, Class, and the New Economy


Jan. 18: VPR: Carlyle, “Past and Present”


Jan. 27: Dickens, Hard Times Book the First

Feb. 1: Hard Times Book the Second

Feb. 3: Hard Times Book the Third

Feb. 8: exam

The Woman Question


Feb. 24: Mill Books Second and Third

Mar. 1: Mill Books Fourth and Fifth

Mar. 3: Mill Book Sixth

Mar. 8: Mill Book Seventh

Mar. 10: exam
Mar. 15, 17: Spring Break

Faith, Doubt and the New Sciences

Mar. 22: **VPR:** Chambers, *Vestiges of the Natural History of Creation*; Darwin, “On the Origin of Species”; Gosse, *Father and Son*

Mar. 24: **VP:** Tennyson, *In Memoriam* 1-27

Mar. 29: **VP:** *In Memoriam* 28-58

Mar. 31: **VP:** *In Memoriam* 59-103

Apr. 5: **VP:** *In Memoriam* 104-131, Epilogue

April 7: **exam**

Empire


Apr. 14: **VP:** Tennyson, “The Charge of the Light Brigade” and “To the Marquis of Dufferin and Ava”; Hardy, “Drummer Hodge”

Decadence


Apr. 21: **VP:** Henley, “In Hospital”; Symons, “The Absinthe Drinker”

Apr. 26: **VP:** Wilde, “Les Ballons,” “Symphony in Yellow,” *The Ballad of Reading Gaol*

Apr. 28: **exam**