Spring 1-15-2005

ENG 3807-002: Victorian Literature: "Little England, Big Empire"

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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 imperial world power. The extent of Britain’s colonial and later imperial network led one observer to quip “The sun never sets on the Union Jack.” This sense of itself as at the center of a far-reaching empire permeated the British national and literary imagination and was both celebrated and critiqued in everything from newspaper accounts to poetry to novels and essays. The objectives of this course include gaining a strong sense of the formal features and aesthetic affects that characterize Victorian literature, as well as the social and political concerns with which literature of that time creatively engages. In addition to an expectation that students will come prepared for class and actively participate in discussion, assignments will include in-class writing, two essays, a mid-term and a final examination. Again, please note that this class is DISCUSSION-DRIVEN. This means that there is an expectation that each student will be fully prepared for each meeting having read the text(s) assigned for the day and able to initiate or contribute to discussion with relevant and meaningful questions or comments that indicate a serious effort to grapple with the assigned texts and the questions that frame this course.

Texts: Jane Eyre by Charlotte Brontë
The Moonstone by Wilkie Collins
Kim by Rudyard Kipling
The Longman Anthology of British Literature volume 2B “The Victorian Age”
Victorian People and Ideas by Richard Altick
Empire: A Very Short Introduction by Stephen Howe
Course Packet available at Copy Express by week three.
A College-level Dictionary
Course Assignments: To achieve the goals described above students will need to keep up with the rigorous reading schedule and actively participate in the class discussion. The following assignments will foster the active engagement necessary to make this a productive and exciting learning experience.

I. Inclass writing assignments: At times, classes will start with an in-class writing assignment that will give you the opportunity to demonstrate the scope of your reading and comprehension. 10 points each.

II. Reading Index: For the first two major works that we read, Jane Eyre and The Moonstone, you will track three topics or sets of terms, type them up and submit them the week after we have finished reading the text. (100 points each)

III. Papers: Two essays (the first due week six, the second in week thirteen) worth 200 points each.

IV. Presentation of critical essays: at least once during the semester you will present for your fellow students one of the critical essays assigned for this class. (100 points)

V. Midterm Exam (100 points)

VI. Final Exam (150 points)

Attendance Policy: You may miss 1 class no questions asked, no excuses needed. After 1 class you will drop a grade level, for example, if you were earning a B, you would be dropped to C. If you miss 2 or more classes you will receive a failing grade for this class.

Schedule:
Please note this schedule is provisional and subject to change. Also, students should read assigned text(s) prior to the class in which the text(s) will be discussed and keep on the reading schedule regardless of what is covered in class in any given week. In other words, it is your job to keep up with the reading schedule.

Week One:
1/12 Introduction to course, topic, and class members; Introduction to Oppositional Analysis Introduction to Charlotte Bronte and Jane Eyre; Introduction to the Index assignment.

Week Two:
1/19 In class writing: topic to be assigned Jane Eyre and “Why Are Women Redundant?”
HMWK: Finish Reading Jane Eyre by Week Four, for next week be sure to have completed reading up to chapter 27 (XXVII)
“The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam of Naishapur” Longman 1230-1242

Week Three:
1/26 Please note: class will start at 7.15 pm this evening not 6pm. You may use this time to pick up your class packet. JE XVI-XXVII
“The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam of Naishapur” Longman 1230-1242
HMWK: Jane Eyre XXVIII-XXXVIII, in other words finish reading JE, and read LA pages 1573-1592 and 1779-1784
Week Four:
2/2   *JE* XXVIII-XXXVIII wrap up and analysis of Matthew Arnold and Thomas MacCaulay excerpts from Longman
Oppositional Analysis worksheets
Introduce the Carlyle and Mill readings from the packet along with the Jamaican Mutiny

HMWK: The Nigger/Negro Question essays by Carlyle and Mill in course packet
plus Carlyle bio Longman 1033-1035 and Mill bio Longman 1073-1075. Read Denis Judd's chapter on "The Jamaica Rebellion of 1865 (also in packet)
Prepare Jane Eyre index

Week Five:
2/9   Turn in *JE* Index
The Negro Question Debate
Paper Workshop
HMWK: First Paper due 2/16
Read: Tennyson's poem "The Siege at Lucknow" and Patrick Brantlinger essay
"The Novel and Empire" (both in packet)
And "The Prologue: The Storming of Seringapatam" in *The Moonstone*

Week Six:
2/16   FIRST PAPER DUE IN CLASS
Author Assessment and revision strategies
*The Moonstone* and The Sensation Novel
Midterm exam prep
HMWK: Study for Midterm and read *The Moonstone* "The Story: First Period"
"The Great Indian Uprising of 1857-58" in packet. These will be included on the midterm.

Week Seven:
2/23   Midterm Examination (1 hour)
Discuss "The First Period" and "The Great Indian Uprising"
HMWK: read *The Moonstone* "The Second Period up to and including "The Fourth Narrative"

Week Eight:
3/2   *The Moonstone* "The Second Period"
HMWK: finish reading all of *The Moonstone* and Burton excerpt (Longman pp1791-1796) and "Introduction" and chapter 1 of Stephen Howe's *Empire: A Very Short Introduction.*

Week Nine:
3/9   Wrap up discussion of *The Moonstone*
HMWK: *Moonstone* index due
Read: Darwin excerpts Longman pp 1243 to 1264, and 1803-1818
Kipling's "The Man Who Would Be King" (packet)
Mary Louise Pratt's "Introduction" to *Imperial Eyes* (packet)

Spring Break: March 14-18th
Week Ten:
3/23 Imperial Eyes
   HMWK: “The Widow at Windsor” (Longman 1769) and “The White Man’s Burden” (LA 1818), “The Madness of Private Ortheris” (packet) and Kim ch 1-8

Week Eleven:
3/30 Kim discussion
   HMWK: finish reading Kim chs 9-15

Week Twelve:
4/6 Kim discussion
   HMWK: Presentations on Critical Essays in Norton edition

Week Thirteen:
4/13 Presentations
   Second Paper Due
   HMWK: Read Chapters 2 through 5 in Stephen Howe’s Empire

Week Fourteen:
4/20 TBA

Week Fifteen:
4/27 Class Wrap Up

Examination: Wednesday, May 4, 2005 7.30-9.30pm