Spring 1-15-2006

ENG 3807-001: Victorian Literature

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English 3807: Victorian Literature
TR 8:00 – 9:15 am
Spring 2006
Professor Richard Sylvia
Office: Coleman 3775
Office Hours: TR 9:30 – 10:30 am; MW 10:00 – 11:00 am; and by appt.
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Texts:
Dickens, *Hard Times*
Hardy, *Jude the Obscure*
Mundhenk, *Victorian Prose: An Anthology (VPR)*
O’Gorman, *Victorian Poetry: An Annotated Anthology (VP)*

Course Description, Design, Methods, and Goals:
I have designed this course to 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 this period, and I expect each class member to prepare these readings carefully and to come to class prepared to contribute to class discussions. These discussions will focus on our close reading of the texts and on important contextual issues that will help us work toward an understanding of the period and each text’s relevance to it. I have chosen reading assignments carefully to represent the most noteworthy writers who respond to several of the most important issues of the day (see section headings). 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 also give you weekly in-class writing assignments, either before or after our discussions.

Requirements and Grades:
careful preparation of assigned reading
regular participation in class discussions – 10%
weekly in-class writing assignments – 20%
one brief paper on an assigned topic – 10%
one longer paper, requiring use of outside sources, on an assigned topic – 20%
a mid-term exam – 20%
a final exam – 20%

Course Policies
Attendance at all class meetings is expected but not required. (After the first two or three weeks, I will not take attendance.) Remember, however, that in-class writing cannot be made up without a valid excuse, and that exams are based in large part on class discussions and lectures.

Please bring books to class. (Follow carefully book assignment notation on schedule.)
If you cannot make a deadline, please let me know in advance. I do not accept late work without a valid excuse. Please see me if you are having difficulty keeping up with the work. Sometimes even a brief conversation can clear up difficulties.

Papers must be typed (double-spaced) and documented using MLA style.

I would like to see each of you in conference some time during the semester, though I am not requiring it. I like talking to you about how your work is going in this course and in the others you are taking. The more I get to know a class, the more rewarding I find my own preparation for class lectures and discussions. Feel free to stop by my office any time you see me there or you may make an appointment.

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

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. 10: introduction to course

**Society, Class, and the New Economy**

Jan. 12: **VPR:** Kay-Shuttleworth, “The Moral and Physical Condition of the Working Classes”; Mayhew, “Labour and the Poor”; Prince Albert, speech on the Great Exhibition; Queen Victoria, journal entry on the Great Exhibition

Jan. 17: **VPR:** Carlyle, “Past and Present”

Jan. 19: **VPR:** Smiles, “Self-Help” and “Leaders of Industry”

Jan. 24: **VP:** Davidson, “Thirty Bob a Week”; E. B. Browning, “The Cry of the Children” and “The Runaway Slave at Pilgrim’s Point”

Jan. 26: Dickens, *Hard Times*, Book the First

Jan. 31: *Hard Times*, Book the Second

Feb. 2: *Hard Times*, Book the Third
The Woman Question

Feb. 7: **VPR:** Tonna, "The Wrongs of Women"; Ellis, "The Women of England"; Nightingale, "Cassandra"

Feb. 9: **VP:** Webster, "Faded"; Christina Rossetti, "Goblin Market"


Feb. 16: Hardy, *Jude the Obscure* Part First

Feb. 21: *Jude* Parts Second and Third

Feb. 23: *Jude* Part Fourth

Feb. 28: *Jude* Parts Fifth and Sixth

Mar. 2: **mid-term exam**

Faith, Doubt and the New Sciences

Mar. 7: **VPR:** Chambers, *Vestiges of the Natural History of Creation*; Darwin, "On the Origin of Species"

Mar. 9: **VPR:** Huxley, "Agnosticism and Christianity"; Gosse, "Father and Son"

Mar. 14, 16: Spring Break

Mar. 21: **VP:** Tennyson, *In Memoriam, A.H.H.*

Mar. 23: **VP:** *In Memoriam*

Mar. 28: **VP:** R. Browning, "The Bishop Orders His Tomb" and "Childe Roland to the Dark Tower Came"

Mar. 30: **VP:** R. Browning, "Two in the Campagna" and "Caliban Upon Setebos"

Apr. 4: **VP:** Hopkins, "God’s Grandeur" and "The Windover"; Hardy, "Hap," "The Darkling Thrush," "In Tenebris I"

Empire

April 6: **VPR:** Burton, "A Day Amongst the Fans"; Livingstone, *Missionary Travels and Researches in South Africa*
Apr. 11: **VP:** Kipling, “Gunga Din,” “Tommy,” “Recessional, a Victorian Ode,” “The White Man’s Burden”

Apr. 13: **VP:** Tennyson, “The Charge of the Light Brigade” and “To the Marquis of Dufferin and Ava”; Hardy, “Drummer Hodge”

**Decadence**

Apr. 18: **VPR:** Symons, “The Decadent Movement in Literature”; Pater, *Studies in the History of the Renaissance*

Apr. 20: **VP:** Henley, “In Hospital”;

Apr. 25: **VP:** Wilde, “Les Ballons,” “Symphony in Yellow,” *The Ballad of Reading Gaol*

Apr. 27: **VP:** Symons, “The Absinthe Drinker”

**The date and time of the final exam to be announced.**