

English 233: The Victorian Age
Prof. Wm. A. Wilson
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Office Hours: W 6-7 & by Appt.

Spring 2017

Description: This course surveys the literature produced during the Victorian period, which is dated conventionally from 1832-1900. Our focus will be primarily upon the fiction and poetry of the age, supplemented by non-fiction prose, music, and art.

Requirements: Students must write one short explication (3-4 pp) and one long research essay (18-20 pp). Two presentations to the class are also required. Details about the presentations will be given in class along with individual assignments of dates. Students must also have prepared the readings assigned and appear in class ready to participate in discussion.

Grading: Short essay 20%; long essay 40%; presentations 15% each; seminar participation 10%.

Required Texts:

Stephen Greenblatt, *The Norton Anthology of English Literature* (9th ed.), vol. E [NA]
Charles Dickens, *Bleak House* (Penguin) [BH]
George Eliot, *Mill on the Floss* (Penguin) [MF]
Thomas Hardy, *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* (Penguin) [TD]
William Makepeace Thackeray, *Vanity Fair* (Penguin) [VF]

Schedule

FEB 01: Introduction
08: VF chs 1-22
15: VF chs 23-42
17: VF chs 42-67
22: BH chs 1-19; PRESENTATIONS
MAR 01: BH chs 20-38; PRESENTATIONS
08: BH 39-67; PRESENTATIONS
15: BH cont'd ; ESSAY #1 DUE
22: MF Books First-Fourth
APR 05: MF Books Fifth-end
12: TD Phases First-Fourth
19: TD Phases Fifth-end
26: Poetry: Tennyson and Browning in NA
MAY 03: Poetry: Arnold, PRB and Hardy in NA
10: Poetry: Meredith, *Modern Love* (handout or online); PRESENTATIONS
17: RESEARCH ESSAY DUE

NB: This course is governed by University regulations and departmental policies regarding enrollment and academic honesty. Please see the following website for details: <http://www.sjsu.edu/english/facultycorner/rqrdsyllabiinfo/index.html>

Student Learning Outcomes and Course Goals

This course will engage four of the five learning outcomes for the MA program:

1. Students will demonstrate an appropriate level of expertise in literary history, literary theory, and rhetoric.
2. Students will demonstrate high-level proficiency in literary research and in the synthesis of research.
3. Students will demonstrate critical and analytical skills in the interpretation and evaluation of literary texts.
4. Students will demonstrate a command of written academic English, including the abilities to a) organize and present material in a cogent fashion, b) formulate and defend original arguments, c) employ effectively the language of their discipline and d) write under time constraints.

and three of the six learning outcomes for the MFA program:

3. Students will demonstrate an appropriate level of knowledge of literary history, literary theory, and craft and theory of creative writing.
4. Students will demonstrate critical and analytical skills in the evaluation and interpretation of literary texts.
5. Students will demonstrate a command of written academic English, including the abilities to: a) organize and present material in a cogent fashion; b) formulate and defend original arguments; c) employ effectively the language of their discipline: d) write under time constraints.