

WESTERN UNIVERSITY 2014-2015

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH AND WRITING STUDIES

Wednesday 7-10 p.m. in University College 142

**English 3444E (Section 002): Nineteenth-Century Literature**

Instructor: Dr. P. Thoms. Office: Arts and Humanities Building 3G23. Office Hours: Tuesday 3:30-4:30, Wednesday 6:15-6:45 p.m., and Thursday 2:30-4, or by appointment. Email: pgthoms@uwo.ca

Teaching Assistant: Mr. D. Shank. Office:  
Office Hours: Wednesday 5-7 p.m., or by appointment. Email: dshank2@uwo.ca

Course Description

Beginning in the first term with the Romantic Period, and moving in the second term to the Victorian Age, this course will examine selected works by major British poets and novelists of the nineteenth century. Through lecture and class discussion, and with attention to recurrent thematic preoccupations and contexts provided by, for example, history, biography, and non-fictional prose, we will explore the richness and complexity of some of the nineteenth-century's great literature. Topics to be considered include innocence and experience, nature and imagination, isolation and community, and gender and sexuality.

Course Objectives

Nineteenth-Century Literature has a number of goals:

- to increase students' knowledge and appreciation of Romantic and Victorian literature
- to arrive, through lecture and collaborative discussion, at readings of individual works, which not only illustrate their particular qualities, but also allow us to develop a growing sense of some of the broader issues and concerns that writers of the nineteenth century continually revisit
- to strengthen students' skills in close reading and literary analysis through regular class discussion of particular passages and the preparation of formal essays

- to enhance students' skills in essay writing by attending to matters of form (such as the integrating of quotations and the preparing of the list of "Works Cited"), to the establishment of theses and the development of arguments, and to the handling of secondary sources

### Schedule of Classes

#### First Term

Sept. 10	Introduction to the Romantic Period. <b>Blake:</b> "The Ecchoing Green," "The Lamb," "The Chimney Sweeper" (from <i>Songs of Innocence</i> )
Sept. 17	<b>Blake:</b> "Introduction" (to <i>Songs of Experience</i> ), "Earth's Answer," "The Sick Rose," "The Tyger," "London," "A Poison Tree"
Sept. 24	<b>Mary Shelley:</b> <i>Frankenstein</i>
Oct. 1	<b>Shelley:</b> <i>Frankenstein</i>
Oct. 8	<b>Wordsworth:</b> "Lines Composed a Few Miles above Tintern Abbey," "Strange fits of passion have I known," "She dwelt among the untrodden ways," "Three years she grew," "A slumber did my spirit seal," "I travelled among unknown men"
Oct. 15	<b>Wordsworth:</b> Preface to <i>Lyrical Ballads</i> , "I wandered lonely as a cloud," "Resolution and Independence"
Oct. 22	<b>Wordsworth:</b> "We are Seven," "The Solitary Reaper," "Composed upon Westminster Bridge," "Ode: Intimations of Immortality"
Oct. 29	<b>Austen:</b> <i>Emma</i>
Nov. 5	<b>Austen:</b> <i>Emma</i>
Nov. 12	<b>Coleridge:</b> "The Eolian Harp," "This Lime-Tree Bower My Prison,"

“Frost at Midnight”

- Nov. 19                   **Coleridge:** “The Rime of the Ancient Mariner,” “Kubla Khan”
- Nov. 26                   **Keats:** “La Belle Dame sans Merci,” “Ode to a Nightingale,” selections from his Letters
- Dec. 3                     **Keats:** “The Eve of St. Agnes,” “Ode on a Grecian Urn”
- Second Term
- Jan. 7                     Introduction to the Victorian Period. Selections from the “Victorian Issues” section on “‘The Woman Question’: The Victorian Debate About Gender.” **Brontë:** *Jane Eyre*
- Jan. 14                   **Brontë:** *Jane Eyre*
- Jan. 21                   **Brontë:** *Jane Eyre*. **Tennyson:** “Mariana”
- Jan. 28                   **\*\*\*Test on January 28\*\*\***  
**Tennyson:** “The Lady of Shalott,” “Tears, Idle Tears”
- Feb. 4                     **Christina Rossetti:** “Goblin Market,” “An Apple-Gathering,” “In an Artist’s Studio”
- Feb. 11                   **Elizabeth Barrett Browning:** selections from *Sonnets from the Portuguese*. **Tennyson:** “Ulysses,” “Tithonus”
- Feb. 18                   **READING WEEK**
- Feb. 25                   **Dickens:** *Great Expectations*
- March 4                   **Dickens:** *Great Expectations*
- March 11                  **Robert Browning:** “My Last Duchess,” “Fra Lippo Lippi,” “Childe Roland to the Dark Tower Came”
- March 18                  **Eliot:** *Silas Marner*

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March 25	<b>Eliot:</b> <i>Silas Marner</i>
April 1	<b>Arnold:</b> “Dover Beach.” <b>Hopkins:</b> “God’s Grandeur,” “Pied Beauty,” “Binsey Poplars”
April 8	Final Class

### Marking Scheme

First Term Essay of 2500 words due on November 26, 2014. Worth 20% of final grade.

Second Term Essay of 2500 words due on March 11, 2015. Worth 25% of final grade.

Test on January 28, 2015. Worth 10% of final grade.

Attendance and Class Participation. Worth 10% of final grade. This grade will reflect the student’s attendance record and his or her contributions to class discussion.

Please note that regular attendance is important for success in the course, and that “excessive absenteeism is grounds for debarring a student from taking the final examination.”

Final Examination. Worth 35% of final grade.

1. “STUDENTS MUST PASS **BOTH** TERM WORK AND THE FINAL EXAMINATION (IN COURSES WITH FINAL EXAMINATIONS) IN ORDER TO PASS THE COURSE. STUDENTS WHO FAIL THE FINAL EXAMINATION (REGARDLESS OF THEIR TERM MARK) AUTOMATICALLY FAIL THE COURSE.”
2. Late Policy. Late essays will be penalized at the rate of 1% per day (including Saturdays and Sundays). If you foresee that you will be unable to submit an essay on time and you would like an extension, please contact your marker **before** the essay is due. Essays that are not submitted in class should be placed in the essay drop box; I will announce the new location of the drop box before the first essay is due. **Please note: “The last day of scheduled classes in any course will be the last day on which assignments will be**

**accepted for credit in a course.”** For our course, the last day of scheduled classes is April 8, 2015.

3. You are expected to retain a copy of the final draft of each essay. If a submitted essay is lost, you will be asked to submit the duplicate for grading.
4. Plagiarism is a **serious offence**. Please read carefully the statements on plagiarism found in the “Information for Students” section of the Department of English website.

“Plagiarism (the unacknowledged use of another person’s work) is one of the most serious academic offences, since it involves fraud and misrepresentation. In plagiarizing, one is in effect claiming another person’s words or ideas or data as one’s own work, and thus misrepresenting material subject to academic evaluation. It is necessary, therefore, that plagiarism carry appropriate penalties. These are within the discretion of the Chair of Undergraduate Studies, but may include failure of a course or a grade of zero on an assignment, without the privilege of resubmitting it.”

“Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations.”

“All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).”

5. Office: Arts and Humanities Building 3G23. **Office Hours:** Tuesday 3:30-4:30, Wednesday 6:15-6:45 p.m., and Thursday 2:30-4, or by appointment. Email: [pgthoms@uwo.ca](mailto:pgthoms@uwo.ca) Email Policy: I would prefer that students use email only for urgent matters that cannot wait until office hours or the next class. For all other matters (including discussion of essay topics), I encourage students to talk to me in person (immediately before and after class, and during office hours).

6. “Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and / or assignments worth (either alone or in combination) 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling Office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department.

Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the Office of the Dean of the student’s Faculty of registration, together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. The Student Medical Certificate (SMC) can be found at [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf)  
The full policy is set out here: [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_medical.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf)

7. “Students who are in emotional / mental distress should refer to MentalHealth@Western: <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.”
8. “Students are responsible for ensuring that they have successfully completed all course prerequisites and that they have not taken an antirequisite course.”

#### List of Required Texts

Austen, Jane. *Emma*. Oxford World’s Classics. Ed. James Kinsley. 2008.

Eliot, George. *Silas Marner*. Oxford World’s Classics. Ed. Terence Cave.

Volume D (*The Romantic Period*) and Volume E (*The Victorian Age*) of the 9<sup>th</sup> edition of *The Norton Anthology of English Literature*. These two volumes should be shrink-wrapped as a package with the following **three** texts:

Brontë, Charlotte. *Jane Eyre*. The Norton Critical Edition. 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. Ed. Richard J. Dunn.

Dickens, Charles. *Great Expectations*. The Norton Critical Edition. Ed. Edgar Rosenberg.

Shelley, Mary. *Frankenstein*. The Norton Critical Edition. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Ed. J. Paul Hunter.