

FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
COURSE OUTLINE

ENGLISH 445-01

Fall 2014

COURSE TITLE: Literature of the Early Victorian Period

Instructor: Dr. Karen Bourrier

MWF 11-11:50

Class: SH278

Office: SS 1006

Phone: (403) 220-4660

E-mail: karen.bourrier@ucalgary.ca

Office hours: Wednesday 10-11

Homepage/course website: <http://earlyvictorianliterature.wordpress.com/>

Course description:

In today's popular imagination, the Victorian era is often seen as a time of decorum and moral propriety. Yet, the early Victorian era (c. 1830 to 1848) was a time of social upheaval, as the population moved from rural England to urban centers such as Manchester and London, often to work in grueling jobs as factory labourers. The early Victorian era saw the coming of the railroad, the implementation of strict Poor Laws, and agitation for rights for women and the working class. In this course, we will explore the great debates of the early Victorian period, including "the Condition of England Question" and the "Woman Question," through works of literature including Charles Dickens's *Oliver Twist*, Elizabeth Gaskell's *Mary Barton* and Charlotte Brontë's *Jane Eyre*, as well as poetry by Alfred Tennyson and Robert Browning. The course will also include a serial reading project, in which we will tackle Thackeray's *Vanity Fair* in installments throughout the semester.

Prerequisites: English 302 and either English 240 or 340.

Texts and readings:

- ❖ Brontë, Charlotte. *Jane Eyre*. Ed. Margaret Smith and Sally Shuttleworth. New York: Oxford University Press, 2008.
- ❖ Dickens, Charles. *Oliver Twist*. Ed. Stephen Gill. New York: Oxford University Press, 2008.
- ❖ Gaskell, Elizabeth. *Mary Barton*. Ed. Shirley Foster. New York: Oxford University Press, 2009.
- ❖ Thackeray, William. *Vanity Fair*. Ed. John Sutherland. New York: Oxford University Press, 2008.

N.B. Selected poems by Alfred Tennyson and Robert Browning, as well as secondary criticism, available on our course website: <http://earlyvictorianliterature.wordpress.com/>

Assignments and Evaluation:

Serial Reading Project 10%

Many Victorian novels, including two of the novels we will be reading in this class, *Oliver Twist* and *Vanity Fair*, were first published in serial form, with audiences eagerly anticipating the next month's number. To replicate this reading experience, we will be reading *Vanity Fair* throughout the course of the semester in seven installments. Students will post a short response (300 to 500 words) to each installment on our course website. You might use these posts to pose questions about the text, to compare serialization in Victorian media to contemporary media, or to unpack a specific scene in the novel. Posts can be more informal than a typical English essay, but should still be written in complete, grammatical sentences. Most importantly, your posts should show engagement with the novel through quotation and references to specific details of the novel that you find intriguing. Posts are due at midnight the night before each class on *Vanity Fair* (so that I can read them before class). Students who complete all seven responses and show engagement with the text can expect to receive an A- (8/10), with higher grades reserved for exceptional work.

Participation and Attendance 10%

Student attendance and participation in class discussions are vital to the success of our class. Each absence beyond one week of class (three classes on a MWF schedule) may penalize your participation grade by 10%.

Twitter 5%

The social networking site Twitter has gained tremendous currency over the past few years as a place where academics and professionals can learn and share ideas. To spark our class conversations and keep them going throughout the week, everyone in the class will tweet a minimum of six times a week (with at least one tweet before each class). We will use the hashtag **#ENG445** to keep track of the tweets. The only guidelines are that your tweets must be respectful and relevant to the class. Your tweets could include 1) a question or an observation about the reading 2) a quotation from the reading 3) a response to a tweet 4) a link to a relevant resource (scholarly article, film adaptation etc.). Each student will also be responsible for creating a Storify narrative of the tweets from one day's class, due before the next class, which I will post to our course website, and which everyone can draw on to generate ideas for papers and to study for the final exam.

Because Twitter is public, I encourage you to put your best, most professional foot forward in your tweets. You can follow your classmates and me @kbourrier, but I also encourage you to follow people in your future career path. It will be easiest for everyone in the class to link Twitter identities with classroom identities if you are comfortable using your name and a picture of yourself as part of your Twitter handle, but this is not required. If you choose to be anonymous, let me know what your Twitter handle is so that I can give you credit for participation. Students who complete the Storify assignment, the minimum number of tweets (78) and whose tweets show engagement with the texts can expect to receive an A- (4/5), with an A+ (5/5) being reserved for exceptional engagement.

Final Research Paper 40%

Your final research paper of 1750 to 2000 words will respond to two critics in the field of Victorian studies to develop an argument comparing two of the texts that we read as a class. We will be working on the papers together over the course of the semester to develop a paper proposal, annotated bibliography, peer reviewed draft, and final paper. 35% of the grade will be for the final product and the other 5% will be credit for completing the proposal (1%), bibliography (2%), and draft and peer review (2%).

Final Exam 35%

The registrar-scheduled final exam will include passage identification, short responses, and one to two essay questions. The exam date is not yet up. Students must be available for examinations up to the last day of the examination period (Dec. 8-18).

Late and Missed Assignments

Every student has two days of grace that can be used for any component of the final research paper (except the draft for peer review) or for one of the blog posts for the serial reading project. This eliminates the need to request extensions and allows you some flexibility in managing your workflow. After you use up your days of grace, graded assignments will be penalized by one-third of a letter grade for each day they are late, including weekends. All our assignments will be submitted online. There are no extra credit assignments in this class. Students must pass all components of the course, including participation, to receive a passing grade in the class.

Grading system:

In this course, all essays, exams, and short assignments will receive a numerical grade. Your final numerical grade will be converted using the following scale:

90 + %	A+	4.0
85 – 89 %	A	4.0
80 – 84 %	A–	3.7
77 – 79 %	B+	3.3
74 – 76 %	B	3.0
70 – 73 %	B–	2.7
67 – 69 %	C+	2.3
64 – 66 %	C	2.0
60 – 63 %	C–	1.7
55 – 59 %	D+	1.3
50 – 54 %	D	1.0
0 – 49 %	F	0

Please note that, according to the University Calendar (F.1), instructors may use their discretion when rounding upwards or downwards when the average of term work and exams is between two letter grades.

Although the A+ is solely an honorific that entails no additional points in the 4-point system, the course instructor will employ this mark to distinguish superlative work that exceeds expectations in style, correctness, intellectual depth and breadth, sophistication, and originality.

Plagiarism:

Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possible suspension or expulsion from the university. Please refer to the following information and make sure you are familiar with the statement below on plagiarism.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2-1.html>

Scribe and Muse Club for English Students:

The Scribe and Muse Reading and Writing Club (SMRWC) fosters and champions reading and writing through community service, leadership, and engagement. We strive to enhance the academic and social experience of undergraduate students by promoting academic excellence and interaction between students, faculty, and the community, through social, cultural, and academic events

<http://english.ucalgary.ca/scribe-and-muse-english-club>.

Our email address is smec@ucalgary.ca.

English Department Website:

For more information about courses, programs, policies, events and contacts in the Department of English, please go to our website at <http://english.ucalgary.ca>. Please note that the course outlines posted on the English Department website constitute the official course outline for purposes of appeals. Students should verify any hard copies against this posted version. For courses which employ numerical grades, the official departmental percentage to letter grade conversion scale is also posted on the department website.

Writing support:

The Student Success Centre offers both online and workshop writing support for U of C students.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>

Guidelines on e-mail Etiquette:

<http://www.enough.utoronto.ca/computeruse/eetiquette.htm>

Library and Research Support:

Melanie Boyd, Librarian for English, offers research support to students, including strategies for finding articles, books, and other library materials. Contact: maboyd@ucalgary.ca

Find *The English Pages* research guide here: <http://libguides.ucalgary.ca/english>

Follow the Department of English on Facebook & Twitter:



Academic regulations and schedules:

Consult the Calendar for course information, university and faculty regulations, dates, deadlines and schedules, student, faculty and university rights and responsibilities. The homepage for the University Calendar is

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/index.htm>

Grade appeals:

Consult the following University Calendar link and request advice from the English Department office, SS 1152. Please note that “mere dissatisfaction with a decision is not sufficient grounds for the appeal of a grade or other academic decision.”

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i.html>

Deferral of term work and final examinations:

Should you require an extension for completion of term papers or assignments beyond the deadline of five days after the end of lectures, an Application of Deferment of Term Work form must be completed. The University also has regulations governing the deferral of final examinations. See Calendar:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-6.html>,

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-7.html>.

Academic Accommodation:

It is the students' responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodations and have not registered with Student Accessibility Services, please contact them at 403-220-6019. Students who have not registered with Student Accessibility Services are not eligible for formal academic accommodations. More information about academic accommodations can be found at www.ucalgary.ca/access.

Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>;

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip/>

“Safewalk” Program:

Campus Security will escort individuals day or night: call 220-5333 for assistance. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot pay booths.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk/>

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources:

Have a question, but not sure where to start? The new Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS110, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.

For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre (formerly the Undergraduate programs Office) at (403) 220-5881 or visit them in their new space on the 3rd Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.

Contact for Students Union Representatives for the Faculty of Arts:

arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca

Contact for Students Ombudsman's Office: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>

Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI):

"At the University of Calgary, feedback provided by students through the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) survey provides valuable information to help with evaluating instruction, enhancing learning and teaching, and selecting courses (www.ucalgary.ca/usri). Your responses make a difference - please participate in USRI Surveys."

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is an extremely serious offence. Please read the following information carefully. The penalty routinely recommended by the English Department for documented plagiarism is failure of the course in which the offence occurred; academic probation is also routinely applied at the Faculty level. Suspension or expulsion can result from severe or repeated plagiarism.

The University Calendar states:

1. Plagiarism - Essentially plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Most commonly plagiarism exists when:

- (a) the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test),
- (b) parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author,
- (c) the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source, and/or,
- (d) a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted.

Plagiarism occurs when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement, or when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. Citing your sources in a bibliography is not enough, because a bibliography does not establish which parts of a student's work are taken from other sources. MLA (Modern Language Association) documentation or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose. Advice on adequate documentation can be found at the following web sites:

<http://www.dianahacker.com/resdoc/>

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH STATEMENT ON PRINCIPLES OF CONDUCT

According to the University Calendar, (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/j.html>) "The University of Calgary community has undertaken to be guided by the following statements of purpose and values: to promote free inquiry and debate, to act as a community of scholars, ..., to respect, appreciate, and encourage diversity, [and] to display care and concern for community". The Department of English, like the university as a whole, is committed to a "positive and productive learning and working environment." This environment is characterized by appreciation and encouragement of diversity and respect for the dignity of all persons: students, support staff, and faculty. The department will not tolerate unacceptable behaviour, such as threatening gestures, threatening or abusive verbal or written communication (including e-mails), or any conduct that "seriously disrupts the lawful education and related activities of students and/or university staff". Any cases of such misconduct should be reported immediately to the department Head, who, depending on the nature and severity of the incident, may then take further appropriate action.