

FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH  
COURSE OUTLINE

ENGLISH 519.41-02

Fall 2015

COURSE TITLE: Studies in a Literary Period: The Victorian Bestseller

Instructor: Dr. Karen Bourrier

TR 12:30-1:45

Class: SS1153

Office: SS 1006

Phone: (403) 220-4660

E-mail: karen.bourrier@ucalgary.ca

Office hours: Tuesday 10am to 12pm

Homepage/course website: <https://thevictorianbestseller.wordpress.com/>

**Course description:**

What qualities made a bestseller in the Victorian period? In what sense can a work of literature be seen as a commodity? Paying special attention to the material conditions of publication in the nineteenth century, such as serialization and illustration in periodicals and newspapers, we will look at the literary marketplace from approximately 1850 to 1900. Alongside works of literature, we will also consider other forms of commodity in the Victorian marketplace, from soap to cookbooks. Works we will study may include Charles Dickens's *Great Expectations*, Tennyson's *In Memoriam*, Mary Elizabeth Braddon's *Lady Audley's Secret*, Wilkie Collins's *The Moonstone*, George Du Maurier's *Trilby* and Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes stories, as well as cultural commodities such as *Mrs. Beeton's Cookery Book* and John Everett Millais's advertisement for Pears Soap.

**Prerequisites:** One full-course equivalent in English at the 400 level, or consent of the Department.

**Texts and readings:**

- ❖ Isabella Beeton. *Mrs. Beeton's Book of Household Management*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2008.
- ❖ Mary Elizabeth Braddon. *Lady Audley's Secret*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2012.
- ❖ Wilkie Collins. *The Moonstone*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2008.
- ❖ Charles Dickens. *A Christmas Carol*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2008.
- ❖ George Du Maurier. *Trilby*.
- ❖ Arthur Conan Doyle. *Sherlock Holmes: Selected Stories*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2014.
- ❖ Alfred Tennyson. *The Major Works*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2009.

N.B. Selected poems as well as secondary criticism, available on our course website.

## Assignments and Evaluation

### 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 (two classes on a Tuesday / Thursday schedule counted from the Add/Drop date for the course) may penalize your participation grade by 10%. Students also have the option of participating online via Twitter, using our class hashtag, ENG519. Students anticipating ongoing absence due to illness or personal distress should contact the instructor.

### Seminar Presentation 10%

Each student will be responsible for starting one class session with a ten-minute presentation on a scholarly article for that day's reading. Your presentation should summarize the argument and any especially interesting points in the article and conclude by leading into questions for class discussion.

### Transatlantic Digital Moonstone Project 30%

Wilkie Collins's bestseller *The Moonstone* was published simultaneously in the UK in *All the Year Round* and in the U.S. in *Harper's Magazine*. Through this digital class project, we will investigate the question of what difference the original publishing context makes to the meaning of the bestseller. How do advertisements, illustrations, other stories, and even the page layout affect our reading of a novel? Can the U.S. *Moonstone* and the U.K. *Moonstone* still be considered the same novel? Each student will be responsible for one serial number of the novel. Students will choose and annotate half a dozen images from the two serials in order to make an argument about their similarities and differences.

### Final Research Paper 40%

Your final research paper of 2000 to 2250 words will respond to two critics in the field of Victorian studies to develop an argument about one or more of the texts we read as a class. We will be working on the papers together over the course of the semester to develop a paper proposal, bibliography (in tandem with Melanie Boyd), peer reviewed draft, and final paper. 95% of the grade will be for the final product and the other 5% will be credit for completing the proposal (2%), bibliography (1%), and draft and peer review (2%).

### Reading Quiz 10%

A reading quiz in the last week of class will focus on material covered in the last few weeks of class, including Dickens's *A Christmas Carol*, but may include the entire semester.

### 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 the Digital Moonstone 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 is no final exam in this course. 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 [smecuofc@gmail.com](mailto:smecuofc@gmail.com).

**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](mailto: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>.

**Student Accommodations:**

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit [www.ucalgary.ca/access/](http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/).

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor.

The full policy on Student Accommodations is available

at [http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy\\_0.pdf](http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf).

**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 Arts Students’ Centre (ASC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS102, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at

[ascarts@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ascarts@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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto: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](http://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.