

*English 463 / The Victorian Period / A. H. Harrison*

This course is designed as a selective survey of Victorian literature, focusing on non-fiction prose, fiction, and poetry published between 1830 and 1900. Like Victorian England itself, the course should offer something for everyone's tastes. Our focus will be on issues that were of urgent interest to Victorians: social problems and possible solutions to them in the first industrial nation, gender relations and sexuality ("the woman question"), threats (and alternatives) to religious belief, attitudes toward art (especially literature) and its influence in the social world, and the question of empire. Students in the course should not only learn a good deal about Victorian literature and culture (especially regarding the issues noted above), but also hone their writing and research skills.

**English 463 as a "Learning Community":** As you well know by now, learning is an interactive process. Students and teachers interact with each other and with educational materials (texts, films, specimens, etc) in original ways so as to actually create A knowledge and to try to understand knowledge that has been generated by others. For this process to be successful, our classroom must be an interactive environment. This means that all students are responsible at every class meeting for having read and thought about assigned materials and for interacting with each other and with me. For this reason participation will play a significant role in determining your success in this course (10% of your grade).

**REQUIREMENTS:** Please read all assignments carefully before the due date and come prepared to discuss them (with critical questions in hand). PLEASE NOTE: I allow students **three absences** for the semester, but after that, for each absence a student loses half a letter grade for the course. Please note that coming late to class will count as an absence.

You will write one short, unresearched **paper** (5-7 pages) and one research paper in this class. The **FIRST PAPER** is due FEBRUARY 17 (20% of course grade). For this paper analyze how Gaskell uses character development, particular stylistic devices, and noteworthy image patterns in any important chapter or group of related chapters of Mary Barton to develop one or more of her central ideas about Victorian social and/or political issues.

**RESEARCH PAPER**, due APRIL 29 (8-14 pages): analyze a significant poem or group of related shorter poems by one of the poets we are reading. Please make an appointment to discuss your topic with me **BEFORE MARCH 25**; hand in a one page description of your project APRIL 1. **AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY** for this paper--including at least three current books (or book chapters) and four recent and significant journal articles--is due APRIL 13 (10% of your course grade).. Each entry should be annotated, that is, accompanied by a summary (minimum, five lines) of the book chapter or article's main argument. For Bibliographical entries and citations within the paper **USE ONLY MLA STYLE**. The research paper itself counts 30% of your final grade, the **FINAL**, 30%. **NOTE: I do not accept late papers. All papers written for this class must be handed in at the beginning of class on the due date.**

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**TEXTS:** Altick, Richard. Victorian People and Ideas (Norton, 1973).  
Conrad, Joseph. Heart of Darkness (Bedford, Ed. Ross Murfin, 1996).  
Gaskell, Elizabeth. Mary Barton. (Broadview, 2002)  
Mermin and Tucker, eds. Victorian Literature, 1830-1900 (Harcourt, 2002)

**OFFICE:** My office is T226. Please call me when you need to at 515-4149 or send an email to [engahh@unity.ncsu.edu](mailto:engahh@unity.ncsu.edu). My home email address is [engahh@highstream.net](mailto:engahh@highstream.net). **Office Hours:** T 2:30-4:00, W 12:30-2:30, and by appointment.

## SYLLABUS

### Industrialism, Capitalism, and the Condition of England

#### JANUARY

- T 13 Introduction to the course and to *The Condition of England*.
- Th 15 Altick (1-80, 114-65). EBB, *The Cry of the Children* (341). Tennyson, *Locksley Hall* (404-08)
- T 20 All authors, pp. 3-18, 21-29, 36-39. Carlyle: *Past and Present* (184-95)
- T 22 Ruskin: *The Nature of Gothic* (613-22), *Veins of Wealth* (622-27)
- T 27 Mill: *On Liberty* (304-13). Arnold: *The Scholar Gipsy* (711-14). Carlyle: *Hero-Worship* (175-79). Altick (238-69)
- Th 29 *Mary Barton*, 33-142

#### FEBRUARY

- T 3 *Mary Barton*, 143-263
- Th 5 *Mary Barton*, 264-382
- T 10 *Mary Barton*, 383-483

### Empire and British Imperialism

- Th 12 Mermin: Introduction (105-07), Layard (107), Froude, Tylor (119-25); Tennyson, *Ulysses*; Altick, 81-114.
- T 17 Stanley, Kingsley (125-31). Tennyson: *Charge of the Light Brigade*  
MARY BARTON PAPERS DUE
- Th 19 D. Rossetti: *The Burden of Nineveh* (804-06); Kipling: *White Man's Burden* (1092-93)
- T 24 E.B. Browning: *The Runaway Slave at Pilgrim's Point* (347-51)
- Th 26 *Heart of Darkness I*
- MARCH**
- T 2 *Heart of Darkness II*

### The Role of the Artist

- Th 4 Introduction (131-33), Hallam (133-38), Austin (141-43).  
Tennyson: *The Palace of Art* (390-94). Altick (269-99)
- T 9 & Th 11 SPRING BREAK
- T 16 Tennyson: *Lady of Shalott* (385-87). Mill: *What is Poetry* (298-301),  
*Autobiography* (332-37)
- Th 18 R. Browning: *Essay on Shelley* (592-96), *How It Strikes a Contemporary*

(570-71), Popularity (576), Fra Lippo Lippi (553-57)

T 23 Arnold: The Function of Criticism at the Present Time (727-39), The Study of Poetry (757-63). Pater: "Conclusion" to the Renaissance (959-60). Wilde: Preface to Dorian Gray (1010)

### **Faith and Doubt**

Th 25 Introduction (41-43), Lyell (50-52), Chambers (58-62), Hennell (62-65), Jowitt (66-68). Altick (203-38). Keble (158 and Sermon, 161-63)  
MUST HAVE DISCUSSED RESEARCH PAPER TOPICS WITH ME BY NOW

T 30 Newman: Apologia (239-43). R. Browning: Bishop Orders His Tomb (549-51), Soliloquy in a Spanish Cloister (546-48), Childe Roland (567-70)

### **APRIL**

Th 1 Tennyson: In Memoriam (409-46): Prologue, 1, 3, 5, 7, 10, 16, 21, 24, 27, 28, 31, 34-36, 47-48, 51, 54-56, 77-78, 86, 91, 95, 103, 104, 106, 118, 119-20, 124, 129-31, Epilogue  
BRESEARCH PAPER DESCRIPTIONS DUE

T 6 FLEX DAY

Th 8 HOLIDAY

T 13 M. Arnold: Dover Beach (720), Grand Chartreuse (714-17). C. Rossetti: Poems (858-61 & 868). Hopkins: (995-98) / BIBLIOGRAPHIES DUE

### **Gender, Sexuality, and Love**

Th 15 Ellis, Lewis, Bodichon, etc (81-98). Nightingale: Casandra (686-91). CGR: A Triad (852). Patmore: Angel in the House (774-77)

T 20 Mill: Subjection of Women (313-21). Martineau (269-71). EBB: Aurora Leigh 1 (359-72), George Sand sonnets (351).

Th 22 CGR: Goblin Market (846-52). Tennyson: Mariana (382). R. Browning: My Last Duchess (544)

T 27 CGR: Monna Innominata (863-67). DGR: Blessed Damozel (801-03), House of Life (812-14).

Th 29 Morris: Guenevere, Haystack in the Floods (879-83, 887-89).  
RESEARCH PAPERS DUE

T **MAY 4** FINAL EXAMINATION (9AM)