

## English 336: The English Victorian Novel

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**Course Description:** In this course, we will be considering courtship and marriage as a lens through which Victorian novelists examined the basic structure and values of English society. Through a study of novels from Austen to Conrad, we will consider the different images of the ideal marriage and the changing values given to individual passion and social stability in the courtship plot. We will also cover the gradual emergence of social criticism in the novel, and examine recent critical theory on the relationship between the classic Victorian novel and the growth of Empire in the nineteenth century.

### Course Requirements:

- 1) Reading: you will be asked to read approximately 200 pages a week; in addition, there will be some secondary readings in Victorian nonfiction and critical theory.
- 2) Weekly reading responses, 1-2 pages, due every Monday.
- 3) One 3-5 page paper
- 4) One formal research paper
- 5) Occasional classroom exercises, quizzes
- 6) final exam

### Policies:

**Attendance:** You should be present for every class and prepared to participate. If you are absent, you are responsible for informing yourself about any missed assignments or announcements, and for material covered during that class. All absences should be for good reason; however, you may miss two classes without explanation. I will lower your grade for every unexcused absence after these two. Excessive absences (more than five) may be cause for dropping you from the class.

**Class Participation:** This will count for 15% of your grade. For full credit, you will need to attend every class ready to participate. This means not just responding when called on, but coming to class with questions from the reading and topics for discussion, responding to other students' comments on the text, and taking active responsibility for the liveliness and pertinence of discussion.

**Plagiarism:** In this course, as in all other courses, you are bound by the Honor Code. Therefore, the work you submit for this class must be your own. If you use any outside sources in your writing for this course, you must acknowledge them by using the MLA system of documentation, which is presented in detail in *The Bedford Handbook*. **All Websites or other Internet sources must be acknowledged and documented.** If you

have any questions regarding the Honor Code as it applies to this course, please consult me or pages 94-97 of the Oxford College catalog.

Grade breakdown:

Weekly responses	20%
Short paper	15%
Research Paper	25%
Class Participation	15%
Final Exam	25%

All grades for this course will be recorded using the plus/minus scale described on page 32 of the Oxford College catalog.

Required Texts:

Jane Austen Emma  
Anne Brontë The Tenant of Wildfell Hall  
Charles Dickens David Copperfield  
Anthony Trollope The Warden  
Wilkie Collins The Moonstone  
Thomas Hardy Jude the Obscure  
Joseph Conrad Heart of Darkness

Weekly Outline of Reading:

January 15	Introduction and Objectives
Jan 20- 22	<u>Emma</u>
Jan 27-29	<u>Emma</u>
February 3-5	<u>Tenant of Wildfell Hall</u>
Feb 10-12	<u>Tenant of Wildfell Hall</u>
Feb 17-19	<u>David Copperfield</u>
Feb 24-26	<u>David Copperfield</u>
March 2-4	<u>David Copperfield</u>
March 8-12	Spring Recess
March 16-18	<u>The Warden</u>

March 23-25	<u>The Moonstone</u>
March 30-April 1	<u>The Moonstone</u>
April 6-8	<u>Jude the Obscure</u>
April 13-15	<u>Jude the Obscure</u>
April 20-22	<u>Heart of Darkness</u>
April 27	Review

Exam: Friday, April 30th at 2:00