

English 336: The English Victorian Novel

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Course Description: In this course, we will be considering courtship 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 200-250 pages a week; in addition, there may be some secondary readings in Victorian nonfiction and critical theory.
- 2) Weekly reading responses, 1-2 pages, due every Friday.
- 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. If you are present but unprepared, I will ask you to leave and count that class as an absence. 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. **Tardiness:** I expect you to be on time for every class. If you come to class after we have started, it will count as an absence.

Classroom Demeanor: No eating, sleeping or private conversations. I expect you to show respect to me and to your fellow students. Students who are disruptive will be asked to leave.

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.

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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 38-40 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 Pride and Prejudice
Emily Brontë Wuthering Heights
Charles Dickens Great Expectations
Anthony Trollope The Warden
Wilkie Collins The Moonstone
Joseph Conrad Heart of Darkness

Weekly Outline of Reading:

January 17	Introduction and Objectives
Jan 19	<u>Pride and Prejudice</u>
Jan 22-26	<u>Pride and Prejudice</u>
Jan 29-Feb 2	<u>Pride and Prejudice</u>
February 5-9	<u>Wuthering Heights</u>
Feb12-16	<u>Wuthering Heights</u>
Feb19-23	<u>Great Expectations</u>
February 26-Mar 2	<u>Great Expectations</u>

March 5-9	<u>Great Expectations</u>
March 12-16	Spring Recess
March 19-23	<u>The Warden</u>
March 26-30	<u>The Warden</u>
April 2-6	<u>The Moonstone</u>
April 9-13	<u>The Moonstone</u>
April 16-20	<u>Heart of Darkness</u>
April 23-27	<u>Heart of Darkness</u>
April 30 Review	