Fall 2012 MWF 10-11 Skiles 317

Professor Narin Hassan

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Office hours: MW 12-1 and by appointment

**LMC 3514: Victorian Literature and Culture**

**Course Prerequisites**: ENG 1102

**Core Area/Attributes**: Core Area C, Humanities

**Course Description**:

This course will explore British texts and images from the period 1832-1901 in literary, historical, social, and cultural context. The Victorian period witnessed immense social, ideological and cultural change and the production of a vast range of literary and artistic works. We will read Victorian texts (by poets, novelists, travel writers, artists, and philosophers) and examine the broader culture of the period by analyzing visual images, architecture, domestic/household guides, scientific texts and clips from recent films representing the era. We will also consider nineteenth century reading practices and follow a serialized schedule for one of our novels, *Lady Audley’s Secret*, all semester. Topics in the course will include the relationship of the novel to empire and to issues of gender, Victorian travel and science, the social and cultural impact of industrialization, Victorian notions of femininity and sexuality, and constructions of the domestic and the foreign in Victorian culture.

**Learning Outcomes**:

1. Science and Technology Knowledge Construction: Students will understand that scientific and technological innovation occurs in a social context, and they will be able to recognize how the social influences scientific and technical discourses.
2. Textual/Visual Analysis: Students will learn to read, analyze, and interpret not only cultural projects such as film, literature, art, and new media, but also scientific and technical documents.
3. Interpretive Frameworks: Students will become familiar with a variety of social, political, and philosophical theories and be able to apply those theories to creative and scientific texts, as well as to their own cultural observations.
4. Literary/Film/Narrative art Inquiry: Students will be aware of the traditions and conventions of literature, film and other forms of narrative art, and they will be able to analyze these traditions and conventions in specific cultural contexts.
5. Historical analysis: Students will study literary and cultural texts within an historical framework to become familiar with various forces shape artistic and commercial production. They will learn to interpret history actively, rather than passively accepting archival information.

**Required Texts:**

Damsrosch et al. *The Longman Anthology of British Literature*, Vol 2B (The Victorian Age)

Mary Elizabeth Braddon, *Lady Audley’s Secret* (Broadview Press)

Charlotte Bronte, *Jane Eyre* (Broadview Press)

Charles Dickens. *Hard Times* (Broadview Press)

George Eliot, *The Mill on the Floss*  (Broadview Press)

(The Broadview selections will be bundled together as a buy one get on free combo).

Robert Louis Stevenson, *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*

**Course Requirements**:

Attendance and Participation: 25%

(includes regular attendance, participation and

a discussion leader session and quizzes).

2 Exams (25% each) 50%

Final Paper and presentation 25%

Final Grading scheme:

90-100: A; 80-89 B; 70-79: C; 60-69: D; 59 and below: F

**Course Expectations**:

Attendance Policy:

Be Here!

The first expectation is that you come to class prepared, on time and ready to work. Absences will limit your contribution to the course and will obviously impact the attendance and participation component of the grade. You are allowed three unexcused absences before your final grade is affected. Each additional absence beyond three will lower your grade by 1/3 (eg, a B becomes a B- at your fourth absence and a C+ at your fifth absence). Three late sessions count as one absence. More than eight absences result in automatic failure of the course. You are responsible for finding out about what readings and assignments you have missed due to absences. You cannot make up quizzes and in-class assignments missed due to an absence. These will receive a grade of "0." Exceptions to this attendance policy are made only in the case of medical emergencies and extended hospitalization, for which I require documentation.

Reading and preparation:

I will expect you to complete all reading assignments before class, bring the reading to class and arrive prepared to discuss readings thoughtfully and intelligently. Active participation and regular attendance is a crucial component of this class. I expect our class environment to be one of lively debate where we can challenge and respect the opinions and comments of others, and where we can all be prepared to discuss these texts.

Your role as discussion leader: You will be asked to sign up as a discussion leader for one class session. This is your opportunity to initiate and facilitate our discussion for that day. As a discussion leader you should be fully prepared to discuss the reading for that day. You may distribute questions to the class to facilitate our analysis of the reading, select particular passages that you see as relevant or interesting, make connections to other texts we have read, and/or bring in additional material to share with the class that relates to the reading.

Papers/Final project:

You will be asked to write one final research based essay. Your final paper will be on a research topic of your choice. You will be asked to organize a formal presentation related to this research. This will involve some groupwork and development of visual aids (eg website organization, development of a focused powerpoint presentation etc). In all written work I expect you to introduce and develop a clear thesis, support a sustained argument with evidence, address and respond to relevant critical arguments and debates, and revise and edit for clarity, cohesion and presentation. Both exams will include a short essay component.

Exam/Quizzes: You will have two exams in this course. In addition to the exams, you will have short quizzes over the course of the semester—some may be unannounced.

**Additional issues:**

**ACADEMIC HONESTY**: all work you turn in for this class must be your own work, with all outside references sources properly cited and acknowledged. All written assignments for this course will be turned in through the anti-plagiarism program "Turn It In" (http://www.turnitin.com).

The "Student Conduct Code of Rules and Regulations" (Georgia Institute of Technology General Catalog Section XIX) states "Academic misconduct is an act that does or could improperly distort student grades or other student records" and offers the following descriptive list:

--possessing, using or exchanging improperly acquired written or verbal information in the preparation of any essay, laboratory report, examination, or other assignment included in an academic course;

--substitution for, or unauthorized collaboration with, a student in the commission of academic requirements;

--submission of material that is wholly or substantially identical to that created or published by another person or persons, without adequate credit notations indicating authorship (plagiarism);

--false claims of performance or work that has been submitted by claimant;

--alteration or insertion of any academic grade or rating so as to obtain unearned academic credit;

--forgery, alteration, or misuse of any institute document relating to the academic status of the student.

The Code continues, "While these acts constitute assured instances of academic misconduct, other acts of academic misconduct may be defined by the professor." Consult the Honor Code outline at http://www.honor.gatech.edu/ or in the General Catalog to remember your primary commitment to academic honesty. Students who engage in academic dishonesty may receive a 0.0 on the assignment or fail the course, In addition, the instance will be reported to the Dean of Students who may take further action.

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**: Please make an appointment to see me if you need to discuss special accommodations for a documented disability or special need. Students with disabilities should also contact Access Disabled Assistance Program for Tech Students (ADAPTS) to discuss reasonable accommodations. For an appointment with a counselor call 404-894-2564 (voice) /404-894-1664 (voice/TDD) or visit Suite 210 in the Smithgall Student Services Building. ADAPTS information: (<http://www.adapts.gatech.edu/>

**Course Syllabus:**

**SECTION ONE: Victorian Industrial and Urban Expansion**

Monday, August 20: Introduction to the course/overview of syllabus

Wednesday, August 22: Background, overview of period, view clips from *Queen Victoria’s Empire.* Engels, “The Condition of the Working Classes in England” (Longman)

Friday, August 24: Complete Engels and Carlyle from Longman

Monday, August 27: Mayhew from Longman; Begin Dickens, *Hard Times*

Wednesday, August 29: Dickens, *Hard Times*

Friday, August 31: Dickens, *Hard Times*

Monday, Sept 3: Labor day. No class.

Wednesday, September 5: Dickens *Hard Times* (Complete novel)

Friday, September 7: Wrap up *Hard Times*, Elizabeth Barrett Browning, selections from *Aurora Leigh* (Longman)

Monday, September 10: John Stuart Mill, “On Liberty” and “On the Subjection of Women” (Longman); begin Bronte, *Jane Eyre*

Wednesday, September 12: Bronte, *Jane Eyre*

**SECTION TWO: Gender and Domesticity in Victorian Culture:**

Friday, September 14: Braddon, *Lady Audley’s Secret* (begin reading this as a serialized novel)

Monday, September 17: Bronte, *Jane Eyre*

Wednesday, September 19: Bronte, *Jane Eyre*

Friday, September 21: Braddon, *Lady Audley’s Secret*

Monday, September 24: Bronte, *Jane Eyre* (Finish book)

Wednesday, September 26: Selections from Longman section “Victorian Ladies and Gentlemen”: Sarah Stickney Ellis, Isabella Beeton, Caroline Norton

Friday, September 28: Braddon, *Lady Audley’s Secret*

**SECTION THREE: Science, Travel, and Empire**

Monday, October 1: Midterm Exam

Wednesday, October 3: Darwin, selections from *Voyage of the Beagle*; Mary Kingsley, Sir Richard Burton, and other travel and empire selections (Longman)

Friday, October 5: Catch up day/Exam review

Monday, October 8: No class (I am out of town at a conference)

**SECTION FOUR: Victorian Nostalgia/Realism in the Novel**

Wednesday, October 10: George Eliot, *The Mill on the Floss*

Friday, October 12: Braddon, *Lady Audley’s Secret*

Monday, October 15: Fall Break

Wednesday, October 17: Eliot, *The Mill on the Floss*

Friday, October 16: Braddon, *Lady Audley’s Secret*

**SECTION FIVE: Victorian Poetry and Visual Culture**

Monday, October 22: Overview of Pre-Raphaelite movement, View visual images in class. Read Dante Gabriel Rossetti, “The Blessed Damozel” and Tennyson, “The Lady of Shallot”

Wednesday, October 24: Tennyson, “The Lotus Eaters” and Christina Rossetti. “Goblin Market.” View illustrations/paintings in class.

Friday. October 26: Braddon, *Lady Audley’s Secret*

**SECTION SIX: Victorian Sensations/Victorian Horror/The Fin de Siecle**

Monday, October 29: Stevenson, *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*Wednesday. October 31: Catch up day. Review of research methods/final paper planning

Friday, November 2: Braddon, *Lady Audley’s Secret*

Monday, November 5: Elizabeth Gaskell, *The Old Nurse’s Story*  
Wednesday, November 7: Eliot, *The Lifted Veil*

Friday, November 9: Braddon, *Lady Audley’s Secret*

Monday, November 12: *Braddon, Lady Audley’s Secret*

Wednesday, November 14: Oscar Wilde, *The Importance of Being Earnest*

Friday, November 16: Second Exam

Monday, November 20: Exam review/catch up day

Wednesday, November 22: No class

Friday, November 24: Thanksgiving break

Monday, November 26: Discussion of Downton Abbey and Neo-Victorian culture

Wednesday, November 28: Film discussion (student choice)

Friday, November 30: Presentations

Monday, December 3: Presentations

Wednesday, December 5 Presentaions

Final papers due on Friday, December 7 by noon.