



“Whether I shall turn out to be the hero of my own life, or whether that station will be held by anybody else, these pages must show.” – Chapter 1 *David Copperfield*

## The Dickens Experience: *David Copperfield*

ENGL 623 | Professor Byler

Fall 2024

Thursdays 7:00-9:45 p.m.

This graduate class will focus on Charles Dickens’s most autobiographical novel, *David Copperfield* (1850), exploring various critical approaches to understanding this tale and considering why Dickens as well as many of his readers claim it to be their favorite of his novels. We will also have the opportunity to enrich our understanding of Dickens, nineteenth-century print culture, and archival research by working with CSUN’s newly-acquired Harry Stone Collection, which is a bequest of former CSUN faculty member and renowned Dickens scholar, Dr. Harry Stone. Among other things, this collection includes first editions of Dickens’s novels, letters written in the author’s own hand, and creepy dolls. Assignments in this class will focus both on scholarly writing and on public-facing writing for the 2027-2028 exhibition of Stone Collection materials in the CSUN Library.