

### Department of English & Writing Studies

## English 3444E (001): Nineteenth-Century British Literature

Fall/Winter 2015-16

TC 303 ~ Monday 3:30-4:30 and Wednesday 3:30-5:30

https://owl.uwo.ca/

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### **Course Description**

This course provides an introduction to Romantic and Victorian literature. The texts to be studied offer a representative sampling of some of the many generic modes employed during the nineteenth century, including poetry, the novel, expository prose, and drama. In studying these texts, we will attend both to their formal properties, their use of literary form, relationship to literary traditions, etc., and to the ways in which they reflect and interrogate the ideological currents of their age. To this end, we will be concerned with such themes as industrialization, revolution, democracy, class struggle, the debates between science and religion, evolution, degeneration, the role of the artist in society, the rise of the women's movement, and the controversies concerning sexuality and sexual orientation. Throughout our goal will not only be to enhance our understanding of these specific literary texts, but of the relationship of the nineteenth century to the present, to discover how it is that the values and beliefs we hold as particularly modern were formed and contested in the Romantic and Victorian periods.

#### **Required Texts**

Austen, Jane. *Emma* (Broadview)

Brontë, Charlotte. *Jane Eyre* (Broadview)

Damrosch, David, et al. *The Longman Anthology of British Literature, Volume 2A: The Romantics and their Contemporaries* (5th ed., Longman)

Damrosch, David, et al. *The Longman Anthology of British Literature, Volume 2B: The Victorian Age* (5th ed., Longman)

#### **Assignments and Grade Distributions**

Fall Term

Learning Cell: 10%

Short Essay (1500 words): 20%

Winter Term

Learning Cell: 10%

Research Essay (2500 words): 25%

Final Exam: 35%

Note: Students must pass both term work and the final examination in order to pass the course. Students who fail the final examination (regardless of their term mark) automatically fail the course.

#### **Learning Cells**

A learning cell is an assignment in which students get to develop their close reading and interpretative skills while benefiting from the insights of other students.

For each learning cell you will be assigned a specific passage of text to analyse. You will prepare, in advance, **two** questions that you believe are central to an understanding of the passage's themes, imagery, prosody or style. For **each** of these questions, you will provide two to three paragraph answers. These answers will be in proper essay form, with topic sentences, detailed exposition of specific passages (including quotations), and a conclusion. The total length for the assignment as a whole will vary, but three - four pages or 1000-1250 words is average.

On the day of the learning cell assignment you will bring your typed responses, including your name on the first page, to class. You will then be divided into groups of four to discuss your responses. Each member of the group should tell the others of one of his or her questions and briefly indicate the nature of his or her answer to that question; the rest of the group will then comment, providing other points of view or supplementary arguments. When the question seems exhausted, move onto the next person. If someone has a question that is similar to one already discussed, skip that one and move onto the next. Make sure everyone in the group has the opportunity to both present one or more of his or her questions and to comment on each of the other questions presented. The discussion should be as free and as creative as possible, allowing as much room for tangents, diverse opinions, and sustained verbal riffing as possible without wandering too far from the task of literary analysis of this specific text.

While the discussion is ongoing, you may make notes in the margins or the backs of the pages of your typed responses. Submit this annotated copy at the end of class. In grading the learning cell assignment, we will consider the following:

Please keep at least one copy of each of your papers. Save each file on a usb key, external drive, or other form of back up media. Retain all returned, marked assignments until you receive your final grade for the course.

#### **Academic Accommodation Policy**

Students seeking academic accommodation for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments must apply to the Academic Counseling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the Office of the Dean of the student's Faculty of registration, together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the Office of the Dean of the student's Faculty of registration, together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. The Student Medical Certificate (SMC) can be found here.

The full policy is set out <u>here</u>.

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to MentalHealth@Western for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

#### **Plagiarism**

Plagiarism (the unacknowledged use of another person's work) is one of the most serious academic offences, since it involves fraud and misrepresentation. In plagiarizing, one is in effect claiming another person's words or ideas or data as one's own work, and thus misrepresenting material subject to academic evaluation. It is necessary, therefore, that plagiarism carry appropriate penalties. These are within the discretion of the Chair of Undergraduate Studies, but may include failure of a course or a grade of zero on an assignment, without the privilege of resubmitting it. The Department's policy on plagiarism is <a href="https://example.com/here-chair-chai

Plagiarism Checking: All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between Western University and Turnitin.com (http://www.turnitin.com).

#### Attendance

Attendance is mandatory and will be taken in each class. Chronic absences may result in a formal request to be debarred from taking the final exam, as set out in the Western Academic Calendar: "Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class . . . will be reported to the Dean (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the Department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination." Students, of course, who are debarred from taking the exam, automatically fail the course. If circumstances prevent you from attending class regularly for a period, please do let me know so that we can work out some alternative arrangement.

Email

October	5	Wordsworth, "Preface to Lyrical Ballads" (TRC 433-445); "Song ('She Dwelt Among th' Untrodden Ways')" (TRC 447)
	7	Wordsworth, "Lines Written a Few Miles Above Tintern Abbey" (TRC 429-33)
	12	Thanksgiving
	14	First Learning Cell: Wordsworth, "Poor Susan" (TRC 450)

	19	Coleridge, Biographia Literaria (TRC 684-96)
	21	Coleridge, <i>Biographia Literaria</i> ( <i>TRC</i> 684-96); "The Eolian Harp" ( <i>TRC</i> 626-28)
	26	Coleridge, "Kubla Khan" (TRC 699-71)
	28	Blake, "The Marriage of Heaven and Hell" (TRC 204-217)
November	2	Blake, "The Marriage of Heaven and Hell" (TRC 204-217)

Burke, Reflections on the Revolution in France (TRC 113-122)
Paine, The Rights of Man (TRC1

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December	2	Keats, "To George and Thomas Keats;" "La Belle Dame Sans Mercy" (TRC 1046-47; 1001—02)
	7	Keats, "Ode: To a Nightingale" (TRC 1006-1008)
	9	First Essay Due Review

15	Family Day
17	Reading Week
22	Rossetti, D.G. "Jenny;" Rossetti, C. "In Artist's Studio" (TVA 1622-32; 1647)
24	Rossetti, C. "Winter: My Secret;" "In Progress" (TVA 1649-50; 1664-65)

	29	Darwin, On the Origin of Species and The Descent of Man (TVA 1272-83)
March	2	Arnold, "Dover Beach" (TVA 1562)
	7	Stevenson, The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde (TVA 1780-1818)
	9	Stevenson, The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde (TVA 1780-1818)
	14	Pater, "The Renaissance" (TVA 1694-1700)
	16	Pater, "The Renaissance" (TVA 1694-1700)
	21	Wilde, "Symphony in Yellow;" Symons, "White Heliotrope" (TVA 1823; 1904)
	23	Wilde, The Importance of Being Earnest (TVA 1829-69)
	28	Wilde, The Importance of Being Earnest (TVA 1829-69)
	30	Doyle, "A Scandal in Bohemia" (TVA 1466-82)
April	4	"Michael Field," "La Gioconda;" "A Girl" (TVA 1896-97)
	6	Second Essay Due Review