

Department of English & Writing Studies

English 4350F (001)

Seminar in Nineteenth-Century Poetry

Fall 2023

FINAL COURSE OUTLINE WILL BE HANDED OUT AT THE FIRST CLASS MEETING.

Prerequisites: 1.0 from English 3000-3999 or permission of the Department.

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Course Description

Depending who you ask, the long reign of Queen Victoria (1827-1902) was either a golden age of English poetry or its most decadent. It was period when major poets like Alfred Tennyson and Elizabeth Barrett Browning were celebrities who became wealthy from the royalties on their work and whose opinions on politics and culture were quoted in the press. It was the last period in English literary history when poetry had more cultural prestige than prose fiction, and when poetry was a medium for political art and for writing about sex with a frankness that was not allowed in popular forms like the novel.

Religious Accommodation:

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the [Western Multicultural Calendar](#).

Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Plagiarism:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence.

All instances of plagiarism will be reported to the Chair of Undergraduate Studies. Proven cases of plagiarism will result in a grade of zero for the assignment. Subsequent offences will result in failure for the course.

Statement on Gender-Based and Sexual Violence

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced gender-based or sexual violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts, [here](#). To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.

Support Services

Registrarial Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services <https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login>

Services provided by the USC <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Academic Support & Engagement <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to MentalHealth@Western: <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Timetable

(All readings in *The Broadview Anthology* unless otherwise indicated)

September 13: Introduction; Alfred Tennyson, "Mariana;" Toru Dutt, "Our Casuarina Tree."

September 20: Hemans, "Properzia Rossi" (handout) Tennyson, "The Lady of Shalott," "Ulysses," "The Epic," "Morte d'Arthur," "Tithonus" (handout), J. S. Mill "What is Poetry."

September 27: Elizabeth Barrett Browning: "The Cry of the Children," "Lady Geraldine's Courtship," (handout) "A Curse for a Nation," "A Musical Instrument."

October 4: Robert Browning: "Porphyria's Lover," "My Last Duchess," "The Bishop Orders His Tomb..." "Fra Lippo Lippi," "Andrea del Sarto."

October 11: (Paper 1 due) Robert Browning "Love Among the Ruins," "Childe Roland to the Dark Tower Came," "The Last Ride Together," Matthew Arnold, "The Buried Life," "Dover Beach."

October 18: Tennyson, *In Memoriam*

October 25: Tennyson, *In Memoriam*

November 8: Barrett Browning, "Sonnets from the Portuguese" (handout).

November 15: D.G. Rossetti, "The Blessed Damozel," "Jenny," From *The House of Life* #24-27 ("Willowood") C. Rossetti, "Goblin Market."

November 22: C. Rossetti, "A Triad," "A Birthday," "After Death," "Echo," "Song" ("When I am dead"), "In an Artist's Studio," from *Sing Song* (handout); Augusta Webster, "A Castaway"; Amy Levy "Magdalen;"

November 29: William Morris, "The Defence of Guinevere," "The Haystack in the Floods;" Algernon Swinburne, "The Triumph of Time," "Itylus," "Laus Veneris," "Anactoria."

December 6: (Final paper due) Gerard Manley Hopkins, "God's Grandeur," "The Windhover," "Pied Beauty," "Spring and Fall," "As Kingfishers Catch Fire," "No Worst, there is none," "That nature is a Heraclitean Fire..." Tekhionwake/E. Pauline Johnson, "The Song my Paddle Sings," "Kicking Horse River," "The Cattle Thief," "The Corn Husker," The Art of Alma Tadema, "The Lost Lagoon;" Michael Field, TBA.