

Department of English & Writing Studies

English 3352G (001)

Am I to be the Hero of my own Life: Nineteenth-Century Fictions of the Individual and the World
Winter 2025

Instructor: Dr. Jo Devereux

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Office: UC 4433

Prerequisite: At least 60% in 1.0 of English 1020-1999 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

Nineteenth-century philosophers celebrated the individual, but the period also saw the emergence of new forms of social control in politics, the market, and the workplace. This course examines the individual's relation to society and the world in nineteenth-century English literature. Looking at examples of Victorian fiction, satire, and autobiography, we will explore the problems of gender, race, and social class and will consider the effects of industrialization and the challenges faced particularly by women of colour in the racialized and colonialist society of nineteenth-century Britain.

Objectives:

By the end of the course, successful students will be able to:

- Write critically about nineteenth-century literary representations of the individual in his/her/their world
- Present logical and reasoned arguments with a sophisticated use of evidence
- Demonstrate familiarity with the historical context of 19th-century fiction
- Show knowledge of the reception history of the selected readings from their time to our present moment

Course Materials

Students are welcome to purchase second-hand or earlier editions of any of these textbooks or to order e-Books of this edition from their preferred e-Book provider.

Agnes Grey

By Anne Brontë

Edited by Robert Inglesfield, Hilda Marsden, and Sally Shuttleworth

Oxford World's Classics

Paperback

Published: 01 July 2010

240 Pages

ISBN: 9780199296989

\$9.95

Great Expectations

By Charles Dickens

Edited by Margaret Cardwell and Introduction and Notes by Robert Douglas-Fairhurst

Oxford World's Classics

Paperback

Published: 10 August 2008

544 Pages

ISBN: 9780199219766

\$9.95

North and South

By Elizabeth Gaskell

Edited by Angus Easson and With a new introduction by Sally Shuttleworth

Oxford World's Classics

Paperback

Published: 15 October 2008

496 Pages

ISBN: 9780199537006

\$10.95

Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde and Other Tales

By Robert Louis Stevenson

Edited by Roger Luckhurst

Statements

Academic Consideration

Students may request academic consideration in cases of extenuating circumstances – that is, personal circumstances beyond the student’s control that have a **substantial but temporary** impact on the student’s ability to meet essential academic requirements.

1. Requests for academic consideration are made to (hat)4.3 ((adem)-A)25 (c)-2 (adem)-5.9 (i)2.6 (c)8.8 (A)2.

Essay Proposal: Due March 6 at 11:59 PM

Length: 500 words

Worth: 20%

Use MLA 8 or 9 formatting.

