

# LIT 3319

19<sup>th</sup>-C British Fiction: From Gothic to Science Fiction

Fall 2006

CB 1.110

3:45 pm

TR. 2:30 -

Prof. Pamela Gossin

Office JO 5.304

Office Phone: 972. (UTD) 883.2071

Office Hrs: T: 3:45 - 4:30pm; W: 4:00 - 4:45pm

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+ other days / times by appt – just email me!

## ***Pre-requisites:***

3 hours of lower division Literature or HUMA 1301. This course is especially intended for students interested in the interdisciplinary relations between the arts / humanities and science / medicine, including students working toward the minor in Medical and Scientific Humanities (MaSH) or the major in Humanities, Medicine, Science and Technology (HMST; in process). This class is also valuable for students interested in creative writing and those training to be primary and secondary teachers, as it includes reading and interpreting literary works in historical and cultural contexts.

\* NOTE: Although the historical contexts of scientific and technological change will inform our reading and discussion, no previous background in science or technology is required. \*

***\* This course counts toward the minor in Medical and Scientific Humanities (MaSH) \****

## ***Course Description:***

This course offers a broad survey of the prose fiction produced in Great Britain during the long nineteenth century. We will examine diverse forms of prose fiction – ranging from short stories, through novellas, novels and one example of a “great” (BIG!) classic Victorian novel. The forms will include many styles of narrative including the gothic, realism and naturalism, fantasy and detection, the sensuous and sensational, the melodramatic and science fiction. In the process of reading and discussing these works, we will consider 19<sup>th</sup>-c developments in science, technology, society and politics. We will explore Victorian ideas about God, nature, the Industrial Revolution, Darwinism, and cosmology; concepts of progress, gender, race, class and moral values; constructs of the proper and the scandalous, the sensuous and the philosophical.

The class is designed to encourage open, friendly discussion and participation, enhanced with informational background lectures and extra credit / enrichment videos.

## ***Course objectives:***

Students will read and discuss a wide variety of literary forms and genres, demonstrating the ability to interpret and analyze themes and issues using various critical methods, including formal, historical, biographical and cultural approaches. Students will write an in-class essay and exam and research and write one analytical and interpretative paper, using primary and secondary sources. A variety of additional extra credit writing assignments will also be available.

## **Required Texts (Everyone MUST also select 1 “recommended” text, see below):**

Horace Walpole, *The Castle of Otranto*, Oxford  
Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*, Penguin  
Emily Bronte, *Wuthering Heights*  
Charles Dickens, *Bleak House*, Penguin

R.L. Stevenson, *Dr Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, Signet  
Oscar Wilde, *Picture of Dorian Gray* Prestwick  
A. C. Doyle, *Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* Penguin  
H.G. Wells, *Time Machine*, Penguin

## **Recommended Texts for 100 point Paper – All Students Must Choose 1**

Samuel Butler, *Erewhon* Bibliobazaar  
Wilkie Collins, *Woman in White* Penguin  
H. Rider Haggard, *She* Oxford  
Mary Shelley, *The Last Man* (any edition available)  
Thomas Hardy, *A Pair of Blue Eyes*, Penguin  
or *The Return of the Native* Penguin  
Bram Stoker, *Dracula* Prestwick  
Oscar Wilde, *The Happy Prince and Other Fairy Tales*, Dover  
Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness* Prestwick  
Appleman, P, ed.. *Darwin*, Norton Critical 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition (not for the faint of heart!)

Video Day Suggestions (for Participation Credit: write 1-2 pp critique)

\* NOTE: For your convenience many of these will be on reserve at the UTD Library, as available.

Frankenstein: Boris Karloff classic, 1931; Mary Shelley’s Frankenstein, w/Kenneth Branagh, 1994; Young Frankenstein or Wishbone’s version!  
Wuthering Heights: Prof’s personal fave: 1939 w/ Laurence Olivier and Vivien Leigh; 1992 w/Juliette Binoche and Ralph Fiennes; 1998 Masterpiece Theater version.  
Sherlock Holmes: classic films with Basil Rathbone; Prof’s choice: any episode with Jeremy Brett (any available) or Rupert Everett (Case of the Silk Stockings); Young Sherlock Holmes ok too.  
Bleak House: view any episode(s) of the new PBS adaptation (with Gillian Anderson) – you may do multiple episodes for extra credit.  
Time Machine: classic 1960 version is better than Guy Pearce’s 2002 one, imho (great for a “retro” night party!) but either is ok.

COURSE CALENDAR / DAILY ASSIGNMENTS

\* Please have all readings listed under a particular class day, read FOR that class day’s discussion. \*

WK 1: T. Jan 8: Intro.to 19<sup>th</sup>-C British Fiction  
Introduction to the course: class cards; syllabus; course objectives and themes;  
Extra credit option: vocabulary journals.  
R. Jan.10: Organizational / Free Reading Day!  
Get ahead before you get behind! (no in-class meeting)

WK 2: T. Jan. 15: Historical and Literary Background: Gothic Conventions / Bio: Horace Walpole  
R. Jan 17: Begin discussion: Castle of Otranto

WK 3: T. Jan 22: Conclude discussion: Castle of Otranto; Bio: Mary Shelley  
R. Jan 24: History of Science Background to Frankenstein: It’s Alive!: Experimental Physiology and the Science of “Life” in the 19<sup>th</sup>.

<p>WK 4: T. Jan 29: Begin discussion of Frankenstein  R. Feb 1: Conclude discussion of Frankenstein</p> <p>WK 5: T. Feb 5: Video Day: at library or home. No in-class meeting.  R. Feb 7: Bio: Early Science and Natural Historical background to Wuthering Heights: <i>Conventions: class on conventions and literary of literature to before Darwin</i>  View this adaptation of Frankenstein (see suggestion above)  (1-2 pp film critique of Frankenstein film DOK)</p> <p>WK 6: T. Feb 12: Begin discussion of Wuthering Heights  R. Feb 14: Conclude discussion of Wuthering Heights  View this adaptation of Wuthering Heights (see suggestion above)  (1-2 pp film critique of Wuthering Heights film DOK)</p> <p>WK 7: T. Feb 19: Video Day at library or home. No in-class meeting.  R. Feb 21: * REVISION for 2 part Unit Exam *</p> <p>WK 8: T. Feb 26: UNIT 1 EXAM Part 1 (Objective section) (Midterm grade will be based on this part)  R. Feb 28: UNIT 1 EXAM Part 2 (In-class essay section)  View any available film adaptation of Sherlock Holmes (see suggestion above)  (1-2 pp film critique of Sherlock Holmes film DOK)</p> <p>WK 9: T. Mar 4: "Sunday" Day ("Mark Felt") Video Day at library or home. No in-class meeting.  R. Mar 6: Dickens A. C. Doyle and Sherlock Holmes; selections. Unit Exam back.</p> <p>WK 10: * SPRING BREAK * Mar. Get a head start on reading Blood House!  R. Mar 13: Mar. 18: Bio: Charles Dickens; Begin discussion of Blood House; Unit 2 Chd.  R. Mar. 20: * No class: Religious Holiday *</p> <p>WK 12: T. Mar. 25: Continue discussion of Blood House; second Chd.  R. Mar. 27: Conclude discussion of Blood House; in mid.</p> <p>WK 13: T. Apr. 1: Video: catch up; at library or home. No in-class meeting.  R. Apr. 3: Bio: R. C. Sherrisse; Begin discussion of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde  View selected episodes of new PBS adaptation of Blood House  (1-2 pp film critique of Blood House film DOK)</p> <p>WK 14: T. Apr. 8: Conclude discussion of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde  R. Apr. 10: Bio: Oscar Wilde; Begin discussion of Picture of Dorian Gray</p> <p>WK 15: T. Apr. 15: Conclude discussion of Picture of Dorian Gray  R. Apr. 17: Bio: HG Wells; Discuss Time Machine</p> <p>WK 16: T. Apr. 22: Video Day: View any available film adaptation of Time Machine  R. Apr. 24: * REVISION for EXAM *</p> <p>WK 17: Study Days: T. Apr. 29 and W. Apr. 26.  FINAL, UNANNOUNCED OBJECTIVE EXAM: T. May 9<sup>th</sup> (see syllabus)</p>	
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no field trips scheduled or required

Student Conduct & Discipline

The University of Texas System and The University of Texas at Dallas have rules and regulations for the orderly and efficient conduct of their business. It is the responsibility of each student and each student organization to be knowledgeable about the rules and regulations which govern student conduct and activities. General information on student conduct and discipline is contained in the UTD publication, *A to Z Guide*, which is provided to all registered students each academic year.

The University of Texas at Dallas administers student discipline within the procedures of recognized and established due process. Procedures are defined and described in the *Rules and Regulations, Board of Regents, The University of Texas System, Part 1, Chapter VI, Section 3*, and in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities of the university’s *Handbook of Operating Procedures*. Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations (SU 1.602, 972/883-6391).

A student at the university neither loses the rights nor escapes the responsibilities of citizenship. He or she is expected to obey federal, state, and local laws as well as the Regents’ Rules, university regulations, and administrative rules. Students are

subject to discipline for violating the standards of conduct whether such conduct takes place on or off campus, or whether civil or criminal penalties are also imposed for such conduct.

### **Academic Integrity**

The faculty expects from its students a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrate a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work.

Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, statements, acts or omissions related to applications for enrollment or the award of a degree, and/or the submission as one's own work or material that is not one's own. As a general rule, scholastic dishonesty involves one of the following acts: cheating, plagiarism, collusion and/or falsifying academic records. Students suspected of academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary proceedings.

Plagiarism, especially from the web, from portions of papers for other classes, and from any other source is unacceptable and will be dealt with under the university's policy on plagiarism (see general catalog for details). This course will use the resources of turnitin.com, which searches the web for possible plagiarism and is over 90% effective.

### **Email Use**

The University of Texas at Dallas recognizes the value and efficiency of communication between faculty/staff and students through electronic mail. At the same time, email raises some issues concerning security and the identity of each individual in an email exchange. The university encourages all official student email correspondence be sent only to a student's U.T. Dallas email address and that faculty and staff consider email from students official only if it originates from a UTD student account. This allows the university to maintain a high degree of confidence in the identity of all individual corresponding and the security of the transmitted information. UTD furnishes each student with a free email account that is to be used in all communication with university personnel. The Department of Information Resources at U.T. Dallas provides a method for students to have their U.T. Dallas mail forwarded to other accounts.

### **Withdrawal from Class**

The administration of this institution has set deadlines for withdrawal of any college-level courses. These dates and times are published in that semester's course catalog. Administration procedures must be followed. It is the student's responsibility to handle withdrawal requirements from any class. In other words, I cannot drop or withdraw any student. You must do the proper paperwork to ensure that you will not receive a final grade of "F" in a course if you choose not to attend the class once you are enrolled.

### **Student Grievance Procedures**

Procedures for student grievances are found in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities, of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*.

In attempting to resolve any student grievance regarding grades, evaluations, or other fulfillments of academic responsibility, it is the obligation of the student first to make a serious effort to resolve the matter with the instructor, supervisor, administrator, or committee with whom the grievance originates (hereafter called "the respondent"). Individual faculty members retain primary responsibility for assigning grades and evaluations. If the matter cannot be resolved at that level, the grievance must be submitted in writing to the respondent with a copy of the respondent's School Dean. If the matter is not resolved by the written response provided by the respondent, the student may submit a written appeal to the School Dean. If the grievance is not resolved by the School Dean's decision, the student may make a written appeal to the Dean of Graduate or Undergraduate Education, and the dean will appoint and convene an Academic Appeals Panel. The decision of the Academic Appeals Panel is final. The results of the academic appeals process will be distributed to all involved parties.

Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations.

### **Incomplete Grade Policy**

As per university policy, incomplete grades will be granted only for work unavoidably missed at the semester's end and only if 70% of the course work has been completed. An incomplete grade must be resolved within eight (8) weeks from the first day

of the subsequent long semester. If the required work to complete the course and to remove the incomplete grade is not submitted by the specified deadline, the incomplete grade is changed automatically to a grade of **F**.

### **Disability Services**

The goal of Disability Services is to provide students with disabilities educational opportunities equal to those of their non-disabled peers. Disability Services is located in room 1.610 in the Student Union. Office hours are Monday and Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; and Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The contact information for the Office of Disability Services is:

The University of Texas at Dallas, SU 22

PO Box 830688

Richardson, Texas 75083-0688

(972) 883-2098 (voice or TTY)

Essentially, the law requires that colleges and universities make those reasonable adjustments necessary to eliminate discrimination on the basis of disability. For example, it may be necessary to remove classroom prohibitions against tape recorders or animals (in the case of dog guides) for students who are blind. Occasionally an assignment requirement may be substituted (for example, a research paper versus an oral presentation for a student who is hearing impaired). Classes enrolled students with mobility impairments may have to be rescheduled in accessible facilities. The college or university may need to provide special services such as registration, note-taking, or mobility assistance.

It is the student's responsibility to notify his or her professors of the need for such an accommodation. Disability Services provides students with letters to present to faculty members to verify that the student has a disability and needs accommodations. Individuals requiring special accommodation should contact the professor after class or during office hours.

### **Religious Holy Days**

The University of Texas at Dallas will excuse a student from class or other required activities for the travel to and observance of a religious holy day for a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property tax under Section 11.20, Tax Code, Texas Code Annotated.

The student is encouraged to notify the instructor or activity sponsor as soon as possible regarding the absence, preferably in advance of the assignment. The student, so excused, will be allowed to take the exam or complete the assignment within a reasonable time after the absence: a period equal to the length of the absence, up to a maximum of one week. A student who notifies the instructor and completes any missed exam or assignment may not be penalized for the absence. A student who fails to complete the exam or assignment within the prescribed period may receive a failing grade for that exam or assignment.

If a student or an instructor disagrees about the nature of the absence [i.e., for the purpose of observing a religious holy day] or if there is similar disagreement about whether the student has been given a reasonable time to complete any missed assignments or examinations, either the student or the instructor may request a ruling from the chief executive officer of the institution, or his or her designee. The chief executive officer or designee must take into account the legislative intent of TEC 51.911(b), and the student and instructor will abide by the decision of the chief executive officer or designee.

### **Off-Campus Instruction and Course Activities**

Off-campus, out-of-state, and foreign instruction and activities are subject to state law and University policies and procedures regarding travel and risk-related activities. Information regarding these rules and regulations may be found at the website address given below. Additional information is available from the office of the school dean.

([http://www.utdallas.edu/Business\\_Affairs/Travel\\_Risk\\_Activities.htm](http://www.utdallas.edu/Business_Affairs/Travel_Risk_Activities.htm))

***These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.***

***Students are responsible for listening for in-class announcements/changes and checking WebCT for additional messages or postings.***