

## **LIT 3319: Romantic to Mid-Victorian**

Spring 2013

JO 4.122 M 7:00-9:45 PM

Professor Kenneth Brewer

### **Professor Contact Information**

Dr. Kenneth Brewer

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Office Hours: M 5:30-6: 45 and by appointment

### **Course Pre-requisite**

HUMA 1301

### **Course Description**

Neglected until recently as a fallow period for British fiction until the rise Realism in the Victorian era, the 1800-1850 era is now recognized as one of the most fascinating in the history of the British novel. It is a period of abundant experimentation and creativity in which multiple genres flourish: Gothic novels, historical novels, crime fiction, science fiction, novels about the immorality and decadence of the upper-classes, and the novels describing the rise of a newly globalized economy. We will focus not only on how this era influences the fiction of the remainder of the nineteenth century, but also on how these novels are rich and rewarding in their own terms.

### **Required Textbooks/Materials**

Lewis, *The Monk*

Dacre, *Zofloya*

Dickens, *The Old Curiosity Shop*

Austen, *Northanger Abbey*

Gaskell, *Cranford*

Shelley, Mary. *The Last Man*

Dickens, *Oliver Twist*

Thackeray, *Barry Lyndon*

Brontë, E. *Wuthering Heights*

Brontë, C. *Jane Eyre*

I have ordered high-quality, reasonably priced editions of the novels, but alternative editions are acceptable.

**eLearning:** We will be using the online learning system in this class for the submission of assignments, exams, and delivery of course information.

### **Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes**

In this course, students will:

- examine and analyze a variety of novelistic genres;
- apply considered analysis and respond to literary works as examples of human expression and aesthetic and philosophical principles;
- communicate their understanding and knowledge of texts through oral presentations and written documents.

By the end of this course, students should demonstrate:

- an ability to analyze and critically evaluate a variety of works from literature in the context of culture, society, and values;
- an ability to compare and contrast the works with each other;
- an understanding of the relationship between the structure of the works under analysis and their meaning;
- an understanding of the development and evolution of British fiction in the first half of the nineteenth century.

### **Academic Calendar**

Assignments are subject to change. Please check e-Learning site for the course for announcements.

January 14 <b>Weird(er) Gothic</b>	Lewis, <i>The Monk</i>
January 28	Dacre, <i>Zofloya, or The Moor</i>
February 4	Dickens, <i>The Old Curiosity Shop</i> (Chapters 1-40)
February 11	Dickens, <i>The Old Curiosity Shop</i> (Chapters 41-73)
February 18 <b>Realism</b>	Austen, <i>Northanger Abbey</i>

February 25	Gaskell, <i>Cranford</i>
March 4 • <b>The Fashionable Novel</b> • MIDTERM EXAM	Selections from various novels (handout)
March 18 <b>Science Fiction</b>	Shelley, <i>The Last Man</i>
March 25 <b>The Newgate Novel</b>	Dickens, <i>Oliver Twist</i> (Chapters 1-40)
April 1	Dickens, <i>Oliver Twist</i> (Chapters 41-54)
April 8 <b>The Historical Novel</b>	Thackeray, <i>Barry Lyndon</i>
April 15 <b>The Brontës</b>	E. Brontë, <i>Wuthering Heights</i>
April 22	C. Brontë, <i>Jane Eyre</i>
April 29	C. Brontë, <i>Jane Eyre</i>

Final Exam date to be announced.

### **Assignments & Grading Policy**

Below are the required assignments for this course. I will provide more detailed information as the due dates approach. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have about assignments.

#### Short Writing Assignments and Quizzes: 30%

Short (250-word) response writings will be frequently assigned. These assignments will (usually) be submitted through the E-Learning site for the course. Assignments not submitted by the due date will be considered late and will be accepted for half credit.

There will be frequent quizzes throughout the semester to stimulate class discussion, gauge reading comprehension, and prepare for exams. Quizzes will be based on readings, lecture material, and class discussion. Quizzes will often be towards the conclusion of a class meeting.

### Project (25%)

Specific guidelines for the Project will be discussed later in the class. You will choose one novel from the period 1800-1850 that is not on the syllabus and develop a Webpage on the novel.

### Exams: 25% (Midterm: 10%; Final: 15%)

The midterm will cover material up to that point in the class; the final will cover the material after the midterm.

### Presentations: 10%

You are required to do two class presentations of twenty minutes each on your Project.

### Class Participation: 10%

Participation includes attending class, participating in discussions and in-class activities, and visiting me in my office as often as possible. The majority of classroom time will consist of discussion: for the class to be rewarding, it is imperative that you do the reading and come to class prepared to talk and listen actively. In writings and exams, you are expected to draw on class discussion. Participation in class activities is necessary to pass this class. Promptness and regular attendance are essential and will affect your grade. You must arrive, prepared, to class on time and stay for the class period.

□ *Note on laptops:* If you are using your laptop for non-class related activities, it is really obvious to me and to your classmates (you laugh at the wrong times. Or you laugh at all). Your participation and overall class grade will suffer accordingly.

### **Office Hours**

You are strongly encouraged to take advantage of my office hours to talk about class materials, your papers, and anything else that might help you.

### **Avoid Plagiarizing by Accident!**

Using another's ideas or language without acknowledging the source or passing off another's ideas or language as your own is plagiarism and will not be tolerated. Students often plagiarize without intending to because they are unsure about how to cite sources. Plagiarism by accident is still plagiarism (and will be punished as such), so please feel free to come see me if you are unsure about how to cite sources.

Further material on UTD policies may be found at <http://provost.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies/>

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

