

## **LIT 3319.501: Victorian Fiction**

Spring 2015

ATC 1.305

M-W 5:30-6:45

Kenneth Brewer

### **Professor Contact Information**

Dr. Kenneth Brewer

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Office Hours: M-W 4:00-5:15, Tu-Th 11:30-12:45, and by appointment

### **Course Prerequisite**

HUMA 1301

### **Course Description**

This course focuses on the most compelling literary form of the Victorian era: the novel. We will examine various genres of the novel in the period, including the crime novel, Gothic, realism, the detective novel, the novel of personal development, and the sensation novel. Themes include aesthetic theories about the novel in the period, how the novel reflected the vast social and political changes taking place in the era, debates about how reading novels affected readers, and the significant stylistic shifts from the early Victorian novel to the end of the era and the beginnings of Modernism.

### **Required Textbooks**

Dickens, *Oliver Twist*

Brontë, A. *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall*

Gaskell, *North and South*

Collins, *The Moonstone*

Eliot, *Middlemarch*

Corelli, *Wormwood*

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 Victorian era.

### Agenda

Readings not from an assigned text are posted on eLearning

M January 12	Introduction to Course
W January 14	<i>Oliver Twist</i> Chapters 1-7
W January 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remainder of <i>Oliver Twist</i></li> </ul>
M January 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thackeray, "On <i>Oliver Twist</i>"</li> <li>• Dickens, "Author's Preface to Third Edition of <i>Oliver Twist</i> (1841)"</li> <li>• Mill, "What is Poetry?"</li> </ul>
W January 28	Brontë, <i>The Tenant of Wildfell Hall</i> Chapters I-III
M February 2	Brontë, <i>The Tenant of Wildfell Hall</i> Chapters IV-XXIV
W February 4	Brontë, <i>The Tenant of Wildfell Hall</i> Chapters XXV-XXXV
M February 9	Brontë, <i>The Tenant of Wildfell Hall</i> Remainder of <i>Tenant</i>
W February 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cowie, "Noble Sentiments on the Influence of Women"</li> <li>• Mill, from <i>The Subjection of Women</i></li> </ul>

M February 16	Eliot, <i>Middlemarch</i> Books 1 and 2
W February 18	Arnold, from <i>Culture and Anarchy</i>
M February 23	Eliot, <i>Middlemarch</i> Books 3 and 4
W February 25	Eliot, "Silly novels by lady novelists"
M March 2	Gaskell, <i>North and South</i> Chapters 1-23
W March 4	Gaskell, <i>North and South</i> Chapters 24-34
M March 9	Gaskell, <i>North and South</i> Chapters Remainder of <i>North and South</i>
W March 11 <i>Midterm Exam</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carlyle, "Captains of Industry"</li> <li>• Engels, from "The Great Towns"</li> </ul>
M March 23	Collins, <i>The Moonstone</i>
W March 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Russell, from "My Diary in India, In the Year 1858-59"</li> <li>• Tamplin, from <i>Lectures on the Nature and Treatment of Deformities</i> (9-23) <a href="https://archive.org/details/lecturesonnature00tamp">https://archive.org/details/lecturesonnature00tamp</a></li> </ul>
M March 30	Middlemarch <i>Middlemarch</i> 5-6
W April 2	Darwin, from <i>The Descent of Man</i>
M April 7	<i>Middlemarch</i> 7-8
W April 9	Mill from <i>On Liberty</i>
M April 14	<i>Wormwood</i> Chapters 1-16
W April 16	<i>Wormwood</i> Chapters 17-24
M April 21 <i>Project Due</i>	<i>Wormwood</i> Remainder of <i>Wormwood</i>
W April 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lilly, from "The New Naturalism"</li> <li>• Lankester, from <i>Degeneration: A Chapter in Darwinism</i></li> </ul>
M April 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conan Doyle, "The Adventure of the Speckled Band"</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ashdown, "The Assyrian Rejuvenator"</li> </ul>
W April 30	Review

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 eLearning 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 (30%)

You will choose one author from the course and read a novel by that author that is not the one we are covering in the class. Your essay will compare and contrast the two novels. Alternatively, you may write about a film adaptation of one of the novels covered in the course.

#### Exams: 30% (Midterm: 15%; Final: 15%)

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

#### 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.