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Office: HUMB 260, 460-7326
Office Hours: M/F 9:30-10 and 1:30-3:30, W 1:30-2:30, and by appt.
Class: MWF 11:15-12:05 in HUMB 210
http://www.southalabama.edu/english/about/faculty/ellen_harrington.htm
Spring 2012

EH 354.101: The Nineteenth-Century British Novel

The prolific periodical culture of the nineteenth-century period and the rapidly increasing literacy rate produced a boom in fiction publication that resulted in a rich array of novels and stories, at turns Gothic, sentimental, domestic, realist, decadent, and naturalist. We will begin with Jane Austen's *Emma* (1815), examining the novel's treatment of "surplus women," gender, and society. We will move to Charlotte Brontë's *Jane Eyre* (1847), considering the novel as a kind of prototypical Victorian text engaged with gender, class, and morality and redemption, then we will examine Elizabeth Gaskell's *Mary Barton* (1847) and its treatment of a working class heroine, Chartist politics, and murder. We will read Charles Dickens's *Great Expectations* (1860-61) through its presentation of Victorian childhood, social welfare, and manhood. Next, we will consider George Eliot's novella *Silas Marner* (1861) and its treatment of sexuality, class, gender, and inheritance, then Oscar Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Gray* (1890) in relation to aesthetic value, decadence, and sexuality. We will move to Thomas Hardy's final novel *Jude the Obscure* (1895) to examine Hardy's scathing critique of Victorian hypocrisy about religion, class, and sexuality. Students will be asked to participate enthusiastically in the class and in small groups, make a brief presentation, write two papers that analyze specific topics, and take two exams.

Required Texts:

Austen's *Emma* (Penguin/2003)
Brontë's *Jane Eyre* (Penguin/2006)
Gaskell's *Mary Barton* (Oxford/2009)
Dickens's *Great Expectations* (Penguin/2002)
Eliot's *Silas Marner* and "The Lifted Veil" (Barnes and Noble/2005)
Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Gray* (Longman Cultural Edition/2007)
Hardy's *Jude the Obscure* (Oxford/2009)
Mira Nair's film of Thackeray's *Vanity Fair*, 2004
Required course reserve articles will be emailed to your campus address as PDFs. Please ensure you have read the article and have access to it during class.

Requirements:

SPECIAL NEEDS: In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, students with bona fide disabilities will be afforded reasonable accommodation. The Office of Special Student Services (OSSS) will certify a disability and advise faculty members of reasonable accommodations. If you have a specific disability that qualifies you for academic accommodations, please notify the instructor/professor and provide certification from Disability Services (460-7212).

CHANGES IN COURSE REQUIREMENTS: Since all classes do not progress at the same rate, the instructor may wish to modify the above requirements or their timing as circumstances dictate. For example, the instructor may wish to change the number and frequency of exams, or the number and sequence of assignments. However, students must be given adequate notification. Moreover, there may be non-typical classes for which these requirements are not strictly applicable in each instance and may need modification. If such modification is needed, it must be in writing and conform to the spirit of this policy statement.

PARTICIPATION: You must keep up with the reading in order to do well in the class; a good grade will require you to participate in the discussion and analysis of each text. Bring the relevant texts to class. You should ask questions in class and participate in the class discussion and in discussion groups. Your attention to and enthusiasm for the class proceedings will help your grade. Please turn off cell phones, computers, and other distractions in class; students who text messages in class will be counted absent.

ATTENDANCE: Your consistent, timely attendance is important. At the beginning of each class, I will pass around a sign-in sheet or ask a brief “Warm Up” question about the reading; your written response will allow me to keep track of your attendance and participation (you cannot make up this response due to lateness or absence). **If you have six absences (excessive lateness counts as absence), you will lose 1/3 of a letter grade for the course for each additional class missed. You will automatically fail the class if you miss three weeks or more of class.** Please contact me if you have a serious illness or family emergency that causes you to miss several classes.

PAPERS: All assignments are due at the beginning of class; every assignment that you hand in should be typed, double-spaced, effectively titled, stapled, numbered and in MLA format. Keep a copy of each paper you hand in. Any late assignment drops a letter grade for each day it is late, unless you have cleared it with me in advance. You are also required to turn in an electronic copy of each paper as described in class.

PRESENTATION: Every student is required to sign up for a presentation with a partner.

EXAMS: Plan to attend both exams on the dates on the schedule. Exams will only be rescheduled in emergencies and within one week of test date. Exams may consist of identifications, short answers, and essays.

Plagiarism:

Academic honesty is expected of all students at USA. Your responsibilities as a student include being familiar with the honor code and plagiarism policy of the university with regard to exams, class assignments, and papers. All sources for your papers must be clearly documented, and the extent of your indebtedness to them must be adequately represented by the appropriate quotation marks and citations. Keep copies of your paper drafts and sources; you should be able produce these to me upon request. You should never present another person’s ideas or direct words as your own. Please discuss this with me if you have any questions.

The University of South Alabama is committed to the fundamental value of academic honesty. The student handbook, *The Lowdown*, defines plagiarism as one form of academic misconduct which is “subject to investigation and disciplinary action through appropriate university procedures.” Plagiarism is using somebody else's ideas and/or words in your writing without correctly identifying the sources. As one resource for helping you avoid plagiarism, your written work in this class may be submitted to Turnitin.com, or a similar detection method, for an evaluation of the originality of your ideas and proper use and attribution of sources. Assignments submitted to Turnitin.com will be included as source documents in a restricted access database solely for the purpose of detecting possible plagiarism of such documents. As part of this process, you may be required to submit electronic as well as hard copies of your writing. By taking this course, you agree that all assignments may be subject to some form of originality review. A paper not submitted according to procedures and format set by the instructor may be penalized or may not be accepted at all.

Grading:

Participation and Presentation (15%)

Midterm Exam (20%)

Short Paper, 3 pages (15%)

Final Paper, 7 pages (30%)

Final Exam (20%)

Reading Schedule

Readings are due on the date indicated

Note: Reading the introduction first may spoil the ending. If you read ahead, avoid spoiling the ending for other students.

January

- W/18 Course Introductions and Syllabus; Victorian Novels and Publishing
F/20 *Emma* (Part I: Chapter 1-Part I: Chapter 12)
M/23 *Emma* (I:13-II:7)
W/25 *Emma* (II:8-III:1)
F/27 *Emma* (III:2-III:15)
M/30 *Emma* (III:16-end); Johnson's "'Not at all what a man should be!': Remaking English Manhood in *Emma*"

February

- W/1 *Jane Eyre* (I:1-I:9)
F/3 *Jane Eyre* (I:10-I:15)
M/6 *Jane Eyre* (II:1-II:5)
W/8 *Jane Eyre* (II:6-II:10)
F/10 *Jane Eyre* (II:11-III:4)
M/13 *Jane Eyre* (III:5-end); Gilbert's "Plain Jane's Progress"
W/15 *Mary Barton* (Chapters 1-7)
F/17 *Mary Barton* (Chapters 8-13)
M/20 *Mary Barton* (Chapters 14-21)
W/22 *Mary Barton* (Chapters 22-31)
F/24 *Mary Barton* (Chapters 32-end); reserve article
M/27 *Great Expectations* (Chapters 1-9)
W/29 *Great Expectations* (Chapters 10-17); **First Paper Due**

March

- F/2 *Great Expectations* (Chapters 18-24)
M/5 *Great Expectations* (Chapters 25-34)
W/7 *Great Expectations* (Chapters 35-42)
F/9 *Great Expectations* (Chapters 43-52)
12/14/16 Spring Break
M/19 *Great Expectations* (Chapters 53-end), both endings
W/21 Brooks's "Repetition, Repression, and Return: The Plotting of *Great Expectations*" and Schor's "'If He Should Turn to and Beat Her': Violence, Desire, and the Woman's Story in *Great Expectations*"
F/23 Midterm Exam
M/26 *Silas Marner*
W/28 *Silas Marner*
F/30 Eliot's "The Lifted Veil" in book and "Silly Novels by Lady Novelists" on Reserve

April

M/2 Watch Nair's *Vanity Fair*
W/4 *Vanity Fair*
F/6 *Vanity Fair*
M/9 *Vanity Fair* Discussion; reserve article
W/11 *The Picture of Dorian Gray* (Preface to Chapter 4)
F/13 *The Picture of Dorian Gray* (Chapters 5-10)
M/16 *The Picture of Dorian Gray* (Chapters 11-16)
W/18 *The Picture of Dorian Gray* (Chapters 16-20) and Victorian Reactions
F/20 *Jude the Obscure*
M/23 *Jude the Obscure*
W/25 *Jude the Obscure*
F/27 *Jude the Obscure*
M/30 *Jude the Obscure*

May

W/2 *Jude the Obscure* ; reserve article
F/4 **Conclusions and Final Paper Due**

Final Exam: Wednesday, May 9 from 10:30-12:30