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Office Hours: M/F 9:30-10 and 1:30-3:30, W 1:30-2:30, and by appt.  
Class: W 2:30-5 in HUMB 264  
[http://www.southalabama.edu/english/about/faculty/ellen\\_harrington.htm](http://www.southalabama.edu/english/about/faculty/ellen_harrington.htm)  
Spring 2012

## **EH 538.101: Victorian and Edwardian Prose**

The prolific periodical culture of the Victorian 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 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. Next, we will consider George Eliot's novel *Adam Bede* (1859) and its treatment of sexuality, class, gender, and infanticide. We will read Charles Dickens's *Great Expectations* (1860-61) through its presentation of Victorian childhood, social welfare, and manhood, 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. Joseph Conrad's post-Edwardian novel *Victory* (1915), a dark Modernist reframing of the adventure story, skeptically revisits familiar Victorian themes. The class will require response papers, a presentation, a short essay, and a research paper.

### **Required Texts:**

Brontë's *Jane Eyre* (Penguin/2006)  
Gaskell's *Mary Barton* (Oxford/2009)  
Eliot's *Adam Bede* (Oxford/2008)  
Dickens's *Great Expectations* (Penguin/2002)  
Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Gray* (Longman Cultural Edition/2007)  
Hardy's *Jude the Obscure* (Oxford/2009)  
Conrad's *Victory* (Penguin/1996)

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.

**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 plan to 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.

**ATTENDANCE:** Your consistent, timely attendance is expected. If you have a legitimate reason for missing class, you are responsible for contacting me and providing appropriate documentation. You are responsible for making up missed work within one week. **Students who miss more than three weeks of class will fail automatically.**

**PAPERS AND RESPONSE PAPERS:** Response papers will be assigned each week except for weeks when projects are due; you must turn in a 1-2 page typed response on the assigned topic at the beginning of each class on that day's reading. All papers 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.

**PRESENTATION:** Each student is required to sign up for an annotated bibliography presentation. You may skip the response paper due on the day you present.

**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 Response Papers (20%)  
Short Paper: Close Reading (15%)  
Annotated Bibliography and Presentation (15%)  
Research Paper (50%)

**Schedule:**

Readings are due on the date indicated. You will be notified in class of any changes to the following schedule. Note: Reading the introduction first may spoil the ending. If you read ahead, avoid spoiling the ending for other students.

- Jan 18 Course Introductions and Syllabus: The Victorian Period and the Publishing Market; *Jane Eyre* (I:1-I:9); **Annotated Bibliography/Presentations assigned**
- Jan 25 *Jane Eyre* (I:9-II:10)
- Feb 1 Finish *Jane Eyre* (II:11 to end); contemporary reviews of 1847 edition and Gilbert's "Plain Jane's Progress"; **Short Paper assigned**; AB Presentation.
- Feb 8 *Mary Barton*
- Feb 15 *Mary Barton* and reserve articles; AB Presentation.
- Feb 22 *Adam Bede*; **Short Paper Due**
- Feb 29 *Adam Bede* and reserve articles; **Research Paper assigned**; AB Presentation.
- Mar 7 *Great Expectations* and selection from *Household Words*: "A Walk in a Workhouse"  
<http://www.workhouses.org.uk/index.html?lit/walkinaworkhouse.shtml>
- Mar 14 **Spring Break**
- Mar 21 *Great Expectations*, both endings; "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*"; AB Presentation.
- Mar 28 *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, and Victorian Reactions and Aestheticism sections in the text ; AB Presentation.
- Apr 4 *Jude the Obscure*
- Apr 11 *Jude the Obscure*; reserve articles; AB Presentation.
- Apr 18 *Victory*
- Apr 25 *Victory*; reserve articles; AB Presentation.
- May 2 **Research Paper Due** and Presentation of Projects