

# HL 2005 Victorian Literature

*Victorian Literature* provides an introduction to some of the best literary works of the nineteenth century, while drawing attention to neglected aspects of this extremely versatile, fast changing, and intriguingly self-conscious age. The course aims to foster excitement about the indeterminacies, doubts, and fissures that shaped the Victorian period's greatest cultural achievements. At the same time, we shall critically reconsider the many legacies of the shifts it saw in epistemological, cultural, and specifically literary conceptualisations. The material discussed this semester will include novels by Charles Dickens, Charlotte Brontë, and Wilkie Collins, a play by Oscar Wilde, as well as a selection of poems and paintings.

Essential requirement: A love of reading,  
especially of very long novels.



Core Texts:

Charlotte Brontë, *Jane Eyre*  
Wilkie Collins, *The Moonstone*  
Charles Dickens, *David Copperfield*  
Arthur Conan Doyle, “The Speckled Band”  
Alfred Lord Tennyson, *In Memoriam*  
Oscar Wilde, *An Ideal Husband*

Assessment:

“Show and Tell” Presentation 20%.  
Essay 50%  
Writing exercise/quiz 20%  
Participation on Discussion Board / Zoom discussion 10%

Please note that this course is conducted online this semester.

Week	Topics	Readings
12 Jan	Introduction	
29 Jan	The Rise of the Novel	Charlotte Brontë, <i>Jane Eyre</i>
26 Jan	Victorian Fiction I	Charlotte Brontë, <i>Jane Eyre</i>
2 Feb	Poetry	Selection ( <i>Norton Anthology</i> )
9 Feb	Victorian Themes and Media	Charles Dickens, <i>David Copperfield</i>
16 Feb	Victorian Fiction II	Charles Dickens, <i>David Copperfield</i> Discussion Board
23 Feb	Victorian Popular Culture I: The Sensation Novel	Wilkie Collins, <i>The Moonstone</i>
2 March	<i>Recess</i>	
9 March	Revision I	Writing Exercise/Quiz
16 March	Victorian Popular Culture II: Detective Fiction	Arthur Conan Doyle, "The Speckled Band" Wilkie Collins, <i>The Moonstone</i>
23 March	Drama	Oscar Wilde, <i>An Ideal Husband</i>
30 March	The Victorians in Contemporary Culture I	Show and tell: an item to do with the Victorians (including neo-Victorian film or fiction, a catalogue, painting, exhibition, toy, advertisement, &c.) and how this course has changed your perceptions of it. Upload your presentation.
April	The Victorians in Contemporary Culture II  Final Essays Due.	Responses (upload your responses).