

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:

Essay 50%
"Show and Tell" presentation 20%.
Quiz 20%
Class participation 10%

Week	Topics	Readings
10 Jan	Introduction	
17 Jan	The Rise of the Novel	Charlotte Brontë, <i>Jane Eyre</i>
24 Jan	Chinese New Year	<i>No class.</i>
31 January	Victorian Fiction I	Charlotte Brontë, <i>Jane Eyre</i>
7 Feb	Poetry	Selection (<i>Norton Anthology</i>)
14 Feb	Charles Dickens and the Victorian Child	Charles Dickens, <i>David Copperfield</i>
21 Feb	Victorian Fiction II	Charles Dickens, <i>David Copperfield</i>
28 Feb	<i>Recess</i>	
7 March	Victorian Popular Culture I: The Sensation Novel	Wilkie Collins, <i>The Moonstone</i>
14 March	Victorian Popular Culture II: Detective Fiction	Arthur Conan Doyle, "The Speckled Band" Wilkie Collins, <i>The Moonstone</i>
21 March	Drama Quiz (provisional date)	Oscar Wilde, <i>An Ideal Husband</i>
28 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.
4 April	The Victorians in Contemporary Culture II	Show and tell (continued)
Essays due	Final Essays Due by the end of day of 10 April.	Essays due