

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 and its legacies.

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



Core Texts:

Charlotte Brontë, *Jane Eyre*
Wilkie Collins, *The Moonstone*
Elizabeth Gaskell, *North and South*
Charles Dickens, *A Christmas Carol*
Charles Dickens, *The Haunted Man and the Ghost's Bargain*
Arthur Conan Doyle, "The Speckled Band"
Alfred Tennyson, *In Memoriam* and "Mariana"
Oscar Wilde, *An Ideal Husband*

Assessment:

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

Week	Topics	Readings
13 January	Introduction	
20 January	Victorian Sentiments & their Legacies	Charles Dickens, <i>A Christmas Carol</i> Charles Dickens, <i>The Haunted Man and the Ghost's Bargain</i>
27 January	The Rise of the Novel	Charlotte Brontë, <i>Jane Eyre</i>
3 February	The Victorian Novel: Themes	Charlotte Brontë, <i>Jane Eyre</i>
10 February	Victorian Poetry & Paintings	Alfred Tennyson, <i>In Memoriam</i> Alfred Tennyson, "Mariana"
17 February	<i>No Class</i>	<i>No Class</i>
24 February	Novel Subgenres I: Social-Problems Fiction	Elizabeth Gaskell, <i>North and South</i>
3 March	<i>Recess</i>	
10 March	Novel Subgenres II: The Sensation Novel	Wilkie Collins, <i>The Moonstone</i>
17 March	Novel Subgenres III: Detective Fiction	Arthur Conan Doyle, "The Speckled Band" Wilkie Collins, <i>The Moonstone</i>
24 March	Victorian Drama Quiz (provisional date)	Oscar Wilde, <i>An Ideal Husband</i>
31 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.

Week	Topics	Readings
7 April	The Victorians in Contemporary Culture II	Show and tell (continued)
Essays due	Final Essays Due by the end of day of 7 April (tbc).	