

Professor:

Pamela Gilbert

Office:  
appt.

TURLINGTON 4320, T 5-6pm and

Email:

pgilbert@english.ufl.edu

Fall 2013

T E1-3 (720-1010pm)

**ENL 6256: Class and the Victorian Novel**

Class identities as we understand them today came to exist, in large part, in the late eighteenth century and early Victorian period. It is a period obsessed both with the possibility of abolishing differences of caste and class and with the attempt to fix them as essential identity categories. This course will be an opportunity to think about class in the Victorian period, and earlier systems underlying and informing it. We will focus on the novel as the privileged literary locus of the elaboration of middle class subjectivity and also as a site wherein the role of class in a newly mobile, industrial and imperial society was explored. We will read a number of Victorian novels and other texts from the period, and will also spend time reading and thinking about works which interrogate and historicize our principal terms.

Full books should ideally be purchased; shorter readings will be available on library reserve, or Sakai, as indicated. Of the books we are reading in part, we are reading enough of the Bourdieu and Wahrman that you should own them if possible (Amazon and Abebooks are likely to have used copies). You may use any good, unabridged edition of the literary works that you like. Oxford or Penguin has many in paperback, and Broadview editions are generally quite good as well. You may also use electronic editions.

Elizabeth Gaskell *North and South*

Mrs. Henry Wood *East Lynne*

Charles Dickens *Our Mutual Friend*

Anthony Trollope *The Prime Minister*

Margaret Oliphant *Phoebe Jr.*

Arthur Morrison *Child of the Jago*

George and Weedon Grossmith *Diary of a Nobody*

Either Marryat *Blood of the Vampire* or Victoria Cross *Anna Lombard*.

Heidi Hartman "The Unhappy Marriage of Marxism and Feminism" (on Sakai)

Dror Wahrman from *Imagining the Middle Class* (Intro, Ch 2, 3, 7, 10, 11) reserve or purchase

Pierre Bourdieu from *Distinction* "Introduction" pp1-7, 32-60). (reserve or purchase your own)

Elizabeth Langland *Nobody's Angels* 1-61

Arlene Young from *Culture, Class and Gender in the Victorian Novel* (library reserve) pp 1-13, 45-69

Pamela Gilbert from *The Citizen's Body* 1-13, 35-46, 99-113 (library reserve)

Stoler, Ann Laura. From *Race and the Education of Desire*. Ch 4: 95-136 (reserve)

Koven, From *Slumming* 1-46 (library reserve, also available as ebook)

McClintock, Anne, from *Imperial Leather*, "Massa and Maids" 75-100 (reserve, also ebook)

Marx and Engels, Thompson, Weber—from *Class*, ed Patrick Joyce, short excerpts on reserve.

### **Requirements:**

Requirements include attendance and participation, six short (1-2 page) responses to the reading, one full length paper (21-25 pages) of which a half-length draft is due November 8th, and one turn preparing a discussion question for a week for which you will sign up in advance.

If you would like to tailor your final project for a particular purpose (dissertation chapter, for example), or for a program outside the English PhD (another department or CRW) please let me know.

Response papers are due each week to the class email list to be circulated and shared; you should post them *at least 48 hours before class*. (I will create an email list for the class, to which you may post papers, responses, questions, etc.) You may choose which six weeks you will turn something in, but please do not turn them in late. You need not comment on the entire reading—you may comment on any portion of it.

Attendance and preparation are required; you are professionals, and this is your work—I expect that most students miss no class. Acceptable reasons to miss are serious or contagious illness, presenting a paper at a conference, etc. Since each class is an entire week of the semester, students who miss two or more meetings for any reason should consult with me to consider whether withdrawal is appropriate. All required work must be completed in order to pass this course. Incompletes should only be requested if a student, having completed most of the coursework, is unavoidably unable to finish on time due to illness or family emergency. Incompletes granted for any other reason will result in a reduction in the final grade.

I base grading on multiple variables, and on individual effort and progress, as we have first year MAs and final year PhDs together, and colleagues in and out of field. Each of you will be seeking different things in the class, and that is as it should be. Although the only "graded" item in your coursework is the final paper, your course grade will not be determined solely by that; it will also be affected by participation, the overall quality of your response papers, etc.

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on 10 criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically

open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results>. Please complete them; I do read them and take them seriously.

### Tentative Schedule

Aug. 27 Introduction, Rd articles Marx and Engels 21-30, EP Thompson 131-33, Weber 31-40 on ARES (library electronic reserve). In class, Tennyson: "Northern Farmer Old Style" and "Northern Farmer New Style"

Sept. 3 Elizabeth Gaskell *North and South*

10 Elizabeth Langland

Heidi Hartman "The Unhappy Marriage of Marxism and Feminism"

17 Mrs. Henry Wood *East Lynne*

24 Dror Wahrman from *Imagining the Middle Class*

Oct 1 Charles Dickens *Our Mutual Friend*

8 Bourdieu

Stoler

15 Margaret Oliphant *Phoebe Jr*

22 McClintock

Koven

29 Gilbert (on reserve). I will be away—please meet and discuss. Save any questions.

Nov. 5 Anthony Trollope *The Prime Minister*. **DRAFT OF PAPER DUE NOV 8, 11pm**

12 Morrison, *Child of the Jago*

19 Either Victoria Cross *Anna Lombard* or Florence Marryat *Blood of the Vampire* (both available online; Marryat in a nice edition from Victorian Secrets press). Individual Conferences TBA

26 Individual Conferences TBA. Thanksgiving week!

Dec. 3 George and Weedon Grossmith *Diary of a Nobody*

Arlene Young **Papers Due Dec 6 11pm.**