

ENL6256-3A85(13445) - Victorian Literature

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ENL 6256

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Fall 19 W periods E1-E3 (720-1010pm) CBD 216

Victorian Literature and Bodies

The body has been central to literary theory for some time, and particularly so in studies of the Victorian period, an age of scientific materialism, innovations in medicine and physiology and the development of realist narrative. More recent approaches, however, take up bodies in new ways as well: as richly continuous and interrelated with their environment, with animal life, and with non-biological objects and substances. This course, on bodies and things, will explore Victorian literature, including the novel, but also poetry and some drama, through lenses scholars have been working with for a while (gender, medicine, race) and also through some new approaches. Topics will include 1) physiology and realism, 2) race, science, empire, 3) materialisms, old and new, 4) things, feelings and circulations.

Reading:

Note: there may be some additions and changes as we go, as I shape the course to the interests of the group. Readings will be available online or on reserve in the library, except in those cases where I have marked that you should purchase the book, in which case, you should look on amazon, alibris or similar.

Requirements:

Requirements include regular attendance and participation, six short (1-2 page) responses to the reading, substantial contributions to discussion, one full length paper (approx. 20-25 pages) of which a preliminary 10 page draft is due in advance, one turn preparing three discussion questions for a week which you will be assigned, a one-page note on a journal you have researched that you would see as a venue for your work, and a conference-style presentation of your own work (for which your final paper is an attempt at an article draft).

Response papers are due each week. You may choose which six weeks you will turn something in, but please do not turn them in late. Response papers should be circulated and shared; you must post them electronically *at least 48 hours before class*. (There is an email list for the class, to which you may post papers, responses, questions, etc.) Response papers should be short (one to two pages), focused essays (that is, driven by a unifying argument or question) that engage the reading (primary, secondary or both) directly.

You are also expected to contribute substantively to discussion on the list, as well as, of course, in class. The class will be conducted as a seminar; each member will be expected to speak during each class meeting and to discuss collegially with other class members. I will contribute as a discussion facilitator

and resource person, but not, generally, as an extended-period lecturer. You should plan to use the class to explore and expand your own research interests wherever possible. If you would like to tailor your final project for a particular purpose (dissertation chapter, for example), please let me know.

Late and Absence Policy

Absences in a graduate course are generally unacceptable. The only reasons to be absent are illness or attendance at a professional conference at which you are a speaker on the day of class. More than one week's absence (each of which represents a week of class) will affect the course grade.

Grading

Grading will take into account class participation, response papers, and the final paper. We will follow university and college policy. The college stipulates that Incompletes are to be awarded only when a student has completed most of the course work with a passing grade, and through no fault of his/her own is prevented late in the term from completing on time, because of severe illness, accident, etc. Incompletes awarded for any other reason will result in a lowered course grade.

Tentative Course Schedule

Aug 21 Course Intro.

Wordsworth, The Lucy Poems <https://www.owleyes.org/text/the-lucy-poems/read/slumber-spirit-seal> (Links to an external site.)

Hood, "Mary's Ghost" <https://allpoetry.com/poem/13720959-Marys-Ghost-A-Pathetic-Ballad-by-Thomas-Hood-adult> (Links to an external site.)

Youngquist, Paul. "Lyrical Bodies" (in files)

Aug 28

Bulwer-Lytton *The Haunted and the Haunters* <https://www.gutenberg.org/cache/epub/14195/pg14195-images.html> (Links to an external site.)

Read original

ending: <https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=mdp.39015028028564&view=1up&seq=248> (Links to an external site.) begin on p240 and read to the end on 245

Machen *The Great God Pan* <https://ebooks.adelaide.edu.au/m/machen/arthur/great-god-pan/contents.html> (Links to an external site.)

Sep 4

Jane Bennet *Vibrant Matter* Preface and Chapters 1 and 2

<http://film.ncu.edu.tw/word/Vibrant-Matter.pdf> (Links to an external site.)

also available as ebook at library

Sep 11

Arnold, *Empedocles on Etna* <https://www.bartleby.com/254/32.html> (Links to an external site.)

Miller *Poetry, Media and the Material Body* Intro pp1-19 and Ch 2 pp25-57 (library etext) <https://www.cambridge.org/core/books/poetry-media-and-the-material-body/504262EFC06D78315D9A510749DBC9A0> (Links to an external site.)

Sep 18

Austin *Automatism and Creative Acts* Intro and Chapter 1 (library etext, reserve) <https://www.cambridge.org/core/books/automatism-and-creative-acts-in-the-age-of-new-psychology/70CCC5B3710631365E95BF41D4C0A445> (Links to an external site.)

Collins *The Moonstone*

Sep 25

Bleak House beginning through Ch 22, "Mr Bucket"

Taylor *Sky of our Manufacture* Intro and Chapter 1 (ordered for library reserve as physical book)

Oct 2

Bleak House through Ch 42 "In Mr Tulkinghorn's Chambers"

Alan MacDuffie "Charles Darwin and the Victorian Pre-History of Climate Denial," *Victorian Studies* 60.4 (2018) DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.2979/victorianstudies.60.4.02> (Links to an external site.) Available electronically through the library.

Oct 9

Bleak House through end

Nicholas Dames *The Physiology of the Novel* pp. TBA (reserve at library, physical book)

Oct 16

Mill on the Floss Books 1-5

Marx, Capital, Commodities <https://web.stanford.edu/~davies/Sybsys100-Spring0708/Marx-Commodity-Fetishism.pdf> (Links to an external site.)

Research note for journal due. Oct 18 1159pm

Oct 23

Mill on the Floss to end

Ahmed "Happy Objects" in *The affect theory reader*, available through the library, online <https://read.dukeupress.edu/books/book/1469/the-affect-theory-reader> (Links to an external site.)

Oct 30

Jessica Straley Chapter 2 in *Evolution and Imagination in Victorian Children's Literature* (on reserve, library, physical book)

Charles Kingsley *Water Babies*

<https://www.gutenberg.org/dirs/etext97/wtrbs10h.htm> (Links to an external site.)

DRAFTS DUE THIS WEEK: Nov 3 11pm

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Nov 6

Boucicault *The Octoroon*

<https://www.gutenberg.org/files/46091/46091-h/46091-h.htm> (Links to an external site.)

EBB "Runaway Slave at Pilgrim's Point"

https://www.sas.upenn.edu/~cavitch/pdf-library/EBrowning_Runaway.pdf (Links to an external site.)

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Presentations begin

Nov 13

Conrad *Heart of Darkness* or Prince *History of Mary Prince*

Senior "Introduction and Chapter 4" from [The Caribbean and the medical imagination, 1764-1834 : slavery, disease and colonial modernity](#) (Links to an external site.) (library has ebook, have ordered physical book for reserve)

Zakiyyah Iman Jackson "Animal: New Directions in the Theorization of Race and Posthumanism." *Feminist Studies* 39.3 (2013): pp669-685. (files)

Nov 20

Kreilkamp Chapter 1, from [Minor creatures : persons, animals, and the Victorian novel \(Links to an external site.\)](#) (on reserve, library—not an etext)

Sewell *Black Beauty* <https://www.gutenberg.org/files/271/271-h/271-h.htm> (Links to an external site.)

Nov 27 Holiday—Happy Turkey days!

Dec 4 Last Day.

Wells, *The Island of Dr Moreau* or Forster *The Machine Stops*

Paper Due Friday, Dec 7 11pm

Course Summary:

Date	Details		
Fri Oct 18, 2019	Assignment	Journal Note	due by 11:59pm
Sun Nov 3, 2019	Assignment	Paper Draft (10pp+)	due by 11:59pm
	Assignment	Presentation	due by 11:59pm
	Assignment	RP Five	due by 11:59pm
	Assignment	RP Four	due by 11:59pm
Wed Dec 4, 2019	Assignment	RP One	due by 11:59pm
	Assignment	RP Six	due by 11:59pm
	Assignment	RP Three	due by 11:59pm
	Assignment	RP Two	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details		
Sat Dec 7, 2019	Assignment	Final Paper	due by 11:59pm
	Assignment	Discussion Questions	
	Assignment	Roll Call Attendance	

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Course assignments are not