Course title and code: English 380 The Victorian Novel, Dickens to Eliot

Instructor: Sheila Burgar
Email: sburgar@uvic.ca
Phone: 250-721-7257

Course description:
From “Please, sir, I want some more” to “Reader, I married him,” the Victorian novel draws us into a world of romance and reality, sensation and sentiment, irony and pathos, utilitarianism and religion, families and foreigners, community and outsiders, orphans and opportunists. Under such broad rubrics, the novels are not easily classified, but ultimately they embrace much of what it was to be Victorian.

In this course you will study five novels written between 1837 and 1860, examining their tumultuous and exciting context in Victorian England. Classes will include lectures, presentations, small and large group discussions, and questions and answers.

The reading load for this course is heavy, so time management is crucial. It is essential that you have the novels read when due in order to render class discussions as educational and interesting as possible.

Proposed assignments:

Oral Presentation 5%
Presentation write-up 5%
Essay # 1 (1000 words) 20%
Essay # 2 (2000 words) 35%
Final Exam 35%

Proposed reading list:

Jane Eyre Charlotte Brontë
Oliver Twist Charles Dickens
The Woman in White Wilkie Collins
Cranford Elizabeth Gaskell
Silas Marner George Eliot