

English 200C

ENGLISH LITERATURE: 1800—1914 LEGACY AND TRANSFORMATION

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Course description:

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair; we had everything before us, we had nothing before us. . .”

This overview of literature from the Romantic, Victorian, and Edwardian periods includes poetry, essays, excerpts from fiction and nonfiction prose, drama, and two novellas, with emphasis on their literary appeal and social and historical significance during these exciting and controversial decades.

Historical divisions are seldom tidy or clear, so we will look for connections: influence, reaction, contradiction, development, and overlap.

- By the end of term, you will have a deepened knowledge of the history and literature of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.
- You will know the names of key authors and their works, with a sense of their themes and artistic purpose.
- You will have read many beautiful or stirring lines from fine writers.
- You will be able to critique poetry, nonfiction prose, novels, and drama with precise vocabulary and an overarching sense of how these literary works are connected.
- You will be able to write focused critical assessments on some of these works, using MLA format and with attention to grammar and composition skills.

Proposed assignments:

2 Critical Responses # (~250 words each)	15 %
Midterm Exam	20 %
Term Paper (1200 words)	30%
Final Exam	35%

Proposed reading list:

The Broadview Anthology of British Literature: Concise Ed., Vol. B, 3rd ed.

Joseph Black et. al, eds.

A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens

The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde by Robert Louis Stevenson