

English 380

Victorian Fiction: Dickens to Eliot

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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 we 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.

Proposed assignments:

Oral Presentation	5%
Presentation write-up	5%
Essay # 1	20%
Essay # 2	35%
Final Exam	35%

Proposed reading list:

Jane Eyre Charlotte Brontë

Oliver Twist Charles Dickens

The Woman in White Wilkie Collins

Silas Marner George Eliot

Cranford Elizabeth Gaskell