Professor Carolyn Betensky

Spring 2015

Office hours (for this class): Thursdays 3-4 & by appt.

betensky@uri.edu

ENG 555: Victorian Outliers



*Hannah Cullwick*

This course considers texts by and about outsiders, misfits, deviants, the merely inappropriate, and the cruelly despised, but also texts by and about insiders, standard-bearers, and unremarkable British subjects. Sometimes these two categories will surprise us by overlapping or merging. Naturally, we will be thinking all semester long about the categories we use – and about how we know what and whom to put into them.

Texts for purchase, if you want:

Primary texts may be purchased, when available, or read online in the format of your choice. All 19th-century texts are available on archive.org. We will be consulting the archive.org versions of these texts in class, so please be sure to bring a tablet or laptop computer for each class session. Some logistical arrangements may require adjustment if this plan proves impracticable. I recommend the following editions of the novels currently in print (please note that there are other texts on the syllabus that are NOT currently in print – do consult the list of weekly readings below):

Walter Besant, *All Sorts and Conditions of Men* (Victorian Secrets)

Wilkie Collins, *The Woman in White* (Broadview)

Joseph Conrad, *The Secret Agent* (Penguin)  
George Du Maurier, *Trilby* (Oxford World's Classics)  
George Eliot, *Daniel Deronda* (Penguin)  
George Gissing, *The Odd Women* (Broadview)  
Eliza Lynn Linton, *The Rebel of the Family* (Broadview)  
Anthony Trollope, *Can You Forgive Her?* (Penguin)

Critical essays and book excerpts will be available in PDF form on the Sakai site for the course.

Course requirements:

Preparation and participation, including submission of a thoughtful question or comment by email before class: 20%

Presentation of one critical essay: 10%

Expansion, in writing, of presentation: 20%

20-page research paper: 50%

**Readings by Week**

Introduction: Can we talk about “the” Victorians?

Readings for **1/22/15**: Talia Schaffer, “Refamiliarizing Victorian Marriage” (in *Australasian Journal of Victorian Studies* 15:2, 2010); Georges Canguilhem, excerpt from *The Normal and the Pathological* (1991)

Victorian “Freaks”

Readings for **1/29/15**: Collins, *The Woman in White* (1860); Cindy Lacom, “Ideological Aporia: When Victorian England’s Hairy Woman Met God and Darwin” (in *Nineteenth-Century Gender Studies* 4.2, 2008); Joyce Huff, “Fosco’s Fat Drag: Performing the Victorian Fat Man in Wilkie Collins’s The Woman in White” in Elena Levy-Navarro, ed. *Historicizing Fat in Anglo-American Culture* (2010)

Sexual Dissidents

Readings for **2/5/15**: Anthony Trollope, *Can You Forgive Her?* (1864); Sharon Marcus, introduction to *Between Women: Friendship, Desire, and Marriage in Victorian England* and “Contracting Female Marriage in *Can You Forgive Her*?” (2007)

Readings for **2/12/15**: excerpt from *Diaries of Hannah Cullwick*; Anne McClintock, “Massa and Maids: Power and Desire in the Imperial Metropolis” (in *Imperial Leather: Race, Gender, and Sexuality in the Colonial Context*, 1995)

Readings for **2/19/15**: Edward Carpenter, *Love’s Coming of Age* (1896); Leela Gandhi, “The Story of Late-Victorian Homosexual Exceptionalism” (in *Affective Communities: Anticolonial Thought, Fin-de-Siècle Radicalism, and the Politics of Friendship*, 2006)

Jews and Foreigners

Readings for **2/26/15**: George Eliot, *Daniel Deronda* (1876); Heidi Kaufman, “Jewish Space and the English Foreigner in George Eliot’s *Daniel Deronda*” (in *Fear, Loathing, and Victorian Xenophobia*, ed. Tromp, Bachman, Kaufman, 2013)

Odd Women

Readings for **3/5/15**: Eliza Lynn Linton, *Rebel of the Family* (1880); Andrea Broomfield, “Eliza Lynn Linton, Sarah Grand and the Spectacle of the Victorian Woman Question: Catch Phrases, Buzz Words and Sound Bites” [in *English Literature in Transition* 47:3 (2004), 251-272]

Readings for **3/12/15**: George Gissing, *The Odd Women* (1893); Adrienne Munich, “Knowing Shopgirls: Monica Madden and Gissing’s Refusal” (from *George Gissing and the Woman Question: Convention and Dissent*, ed. James and Huguet, 2013)

Readings for **3/26/15**: Rhoda Broughton, *Dear Faustina* (1897); Lisa Hager, “Slumming with the New Woman: Fin-de-Siècle Sexual Inversion, Reform Work and Sisterhood in Rhoda Broughton’s *Dear Faustina*” [in *Women's Writin*g, 14:3 (2007), 460-475]

Anglo-Indians

Readings for **4/2/15**: Henry Stewart Cunningham, *Chronicles of Dustypore* (1875)*,* George Otto Trevelyan, *The Competition Wallah* (1864); Sukanya Banerjee, “Bureaucratic Modernity, the Indian Civil Service, and Grammars of Nationalism” (in Becoming Imperial Citizens: Indians in the Late-Victorian Empire, 2010)

Readings for **4/9/15**: Rudyard Kipling, selected tales from *Indian Tales* (1899); Anjali Arondekar, “Lingering Pleasures, Perverted Texts: Colonial Desires in Kipling’s Anglo-India” (in *Imperial Desire: Dissident Sexualities and Colonial Literature*, ed. Holden, 2003)

Bohemians

Readings for **4/16/15**: George DuMaurier, *Trilby* (1895); Kimberly Stern, “Rule Bohemia: The Cosmopolitics of Subculture in George Du Maurier’s *Trilby*” [in *Victorian Literature and Culture* (2010), 38, 547–570].

Slummers

Readings for **4/23/15**: Walter Besant, *All Sorts and Conditions of Men* (1885); Seth Koven, excerpt from *Slumming: Sexual and Social Politics in Victorian London* (2004)

Anarchists

Readings for **4/30/15**: Joseph Conrad, *The Secret Agent* (1907); Elizabeth Carolyn Miller, “Exile London: Anarchism, Immigration and Xenophobia in Late-Victorian Literature” (in *Fear, Loathing, and Victorian Xenophobia*, 2013); Deaglán Ó Donghaile, “Exploiting the Apostles of Destruction: Anarchism, Modernism, and the Penny Dreadful” (in *Blasted Literature: Victorian Political Fiction and the Shock of Modernism*, 2011)