



English 3012: The Victorians, Then and Now

Fall 2016 / 3.0 Units

M 6:00-8:00pm, Library 202

Prerequisites: None

Professor Amy R. Wong

Office Hours: By appointment, Angelico 302

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Course Description

This course explores Victorian literature and the “Neo-Victorian” imagination—as evident in adaptations or engagements with Victorian era themes in literature and TV/film today. We will examine major social, cultural, political, economic, and aesthetic concerns associated with the Victorian period, and theorize why these concerns persist in our own day. To organize our study of “then and now,” the course will engage three primary tropes: The Madwoman in the Attic, the League of Extraordinary Gentlemen, and Doubles / Doppelgangers. Students are encouraged, however, to inquire into other tropes and themes—think of these primary tropes as a starting point for making other connections. Our methodological approach is *transhistorical* and *transcultural*—meaning that we will think critically not only about Victorian literature and culture, but also about our own conceptions and (dis)attachments to the period. English 3012 satisfies 3.0 units of an upper division course (and fulfills the British literature II requirement for majors).

Student Learning Outcomes

- Acquire and demonstrate knowledge of major literary historical and cultural valences of the Victorian period
- Learn to think critically about transhistorical and transcultural phenomena
- Demonstrate proficiency in “close reading” literary and cinematic forms of artistic production
- Become conversant (through writing and class discussion) in academic and cultural criticism

Required Readings / Texts

Please purchase / obtain the starred texts (other readings, film/ TV episodes provided)

Then

- *George Eliot, *Middlemarch*
- *Charlotte Bronte, *Jane Eyre*
- *Bram Stoker, *Dracula*
- Arthur Conan Doyle, “A Scandal in Bohemia”
- *Robert Louis Stevenson, *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*

Now

- Rebecca Mead, *My Life in Middlemarch*
- *Gillian Flynn, *Gone, Girl*
- Penny Dreadful*, Episode 1
- Sherlock* (BBC), “A Scandal in Belgravia”
- The Dark Knight*

Course Schedule

DATES	READING AND ASSIGNMENTS
M: 8/22	<i>Middlemarch</i> , Chapters 1-5
	THE MADWOMAN IN THE ATTIC
M: 8/29	<i>Jane Eyre</i> , I: 1-7 <i>Middlemarch</i> , Chapters 6-10
M: 9/5 (Labor Day)	NO CLASS <i>Middlemarch</i> , Chapters 11-15
M: 9/12	<i>Jane Eyre</i> , I: 8-15 <i>Middlemarch</i> , Chapters 16-20 (Journal check – and post to blog)
F: 9/16	Micro-Essay #1 Due (post to moodle)
M: 9/19	<i>Jane Eyre</i> , II: 1-11 <i>Middlemarch</i> , Chapters 21-25
M: 9/26	<i>Jane Eyre</i> , III: 1-12 <i>Middlemarch</i> , Chapters 26-30
M: 10/3	<i>Gone Girl</i> , Part One <i>Middlemarch</i> , Chapters 31-35 (Journal check – and post to blog)
F: 10/7	Micro-Essay #2 Due (post to moodle)
M: 10/10	<i>Gone Girl</i> , Part Two <i>Middlemarch</i> , Chapters 36-40
	LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN
M: 10/17	<i>Dracula</i> , Chapters 1-9 <i>Middlemarch</i> , Chapters 41-45
M: 10/24	<i>Dracula</i> , Chapters 10-19 <i>Middlemarch</i> , Chapters 46-50 (Journal check – and post to blog)
F: 10/28	Micro-Essay #3 Due (post to moodle)
M: 10/31	<i>Dracula</i> , Chapters 20-end; <i>Penny Dreadful</i> episode <i>Middlemarch</i> , Chapters 51-55
M: 11/7	“A Scandal in Belgravia,” <i>BBC Sherlock</i> episode <i>Middlemarch</i> , Chapters 56-60
	DOUBLES AND DOPPELGANGERS
M: 11/14	<i>Strange Case of Jekyll and Hyde</i> , through “Incident of the Letter” <i>Middlemarch</i> , Chapters 61-65 (Journal check – and post to blog)
F: 11/18	Micro-Essay #4 Due (post to moodle)
M: 11/21	<i>Strange Case of Jekyll and Hyde</i> , to end <i>Middlemarch</i> , Chapters 66-70
11/24-11/26	Thanksgiving Break
M: 11/28	<i>The Dark Knight</i> <i>Middlemarch</i> , Chapters 71-75
F: 12/3	Micro-Essay #5 Due (post to moodle)
TBD	Final Exam Day – Complete (optional) micro-essay revisions <i>Middlemarch</i> , Chapters 76-86 (Journal check – and post to blog)

Grading and Assessment

Your final grade in the class will be determined as follows:

- *Middlemarch* journal – 25%
- 5 Micro-essays (1-2 pages) – 50 %

- Class Participation – 25% (includes in-class assignments, discussions, and “cold calling” readiness)

*A note on “cold calling”: You may elect two weeks to pass on answering – please let me know at the beginning of class.

**A note on “micro-essays”: The goal of these short assignments is to enable concentrated but low-stakes practice of different modes of written communication. These are short, but will be graded rigorously. You will complete two, focused “close reading” essays, and two journalistic “culture pieces.” For the final micro-essay, you may choose a close reading, a culture piece, or a short, creative work.

Course Policies and Academic Honesty

Attendance: If you must miss class, it is your responsibility to get notes from a classmate. Please be reminded that in-class participation cannot be made up. Unexcused absences (please provide a doctor’s note for illness) and chronic lateness will result in a lowered participation grade. Please note that missing four class meetings automatically drops your overall grade to a C-.

Email and Office Hours: Email is the best way to reach me if you have any questions or want to schedule an appointment to see me during office hours. I will do my best to get back to you as promptly as I can, usually within a day (excepting weekends). Make sure you check your email regularly for communication about the class. I am happy to work with each of you individually to develop—and revise—your micro-essays. Please note that I will only discuss any questions or concerns you might have about grades in person.

Late assignments: Unless otherwise cleared by the instructor, papers will be penalized 1/3 of a grade per weekday late. There will be no make-ups for in class assignments, the midterm, or the final class conference.

Academic honesty and conduct: Please familiarize yourself with the university wide honor code: <http://www.dominican.edu/academics/resources/catalog/duc-12-14-pdfs-guide-100813.pdf>
Further note on plagiarism: Plagiarism is broadly defined as representing someone else’s words or ideas as your own. Besides being a disservice to your own learning, plagiarism is an offense that will be reported to the Academic Affairs office and may result in serious consequences for your academic career. If you are unsure as to how to cite or credit a source, please ask.

Statement on disabilities: Dominican University of California is committed to equal access for students with disabilities in accordance with the American’s with Disabilities Act of 1990. Any student who feels she/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the Office of Disability Services (Maude Nazaire) at 415-257-1388 or maude.nazaire@dominican.edu to discuss specific needs. Please submit the subsequent paperwork to the instructor right away.

Disclaimer

This syllabus is subject to modification. The instructor will inform students of any changes.