ENGL 5760: Weird Victorian Lit

Ghosts. Goblins. Vampires. Murder by hair. Rape by fruit. And some very dangerous paintings. Popular conceptions of the Victorian era often cast its literature (and its inhabitants) as stiff, straight-laced, and dull—frankly, it could all get more than a little twisted. This course examines some of Victorian literature’s bigger and stranger twists with attention to issues of gender, sexuality, fantasy, psychology, and violence. We will also pay special regard to form (poetry, the short story, the novel) and genre (the dramatic monologue, Gothic, horror, and mystery, including the detective story).

Required Texts
Wilkie Collins, *The Woman in White*
Henry James, *The Turn of the Screw*
Sheridan Le Fanu, *Uncle Silas*
Bram Stoker, *Dracula*, Norton Critical
Oscar Wilde, *Picture of Dorian Gray*, Dover

Books available at the King’s English Bookshop [http://www.kingsenglish.com/](http://www.kingsenglish.com/)
Other readings available on Canvas or as handouts in class.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: Come to class, participate in class, do all readings and all written work on time.

PARTICIPATION AND ATTENDANCE = 30%
- 2 “allowed” absences. Subsequent unexcused absences will deduct 1/3 letter grade from the participation grade. Please let me know of any medical/life issues that will affect your participation. I will work with you if you keep me informed.
- Discussion questions, comments, or research into historical or theoretical contexts posted to Canvas discussion board by 10 PM Sunday or Tuesday nights. Assignments given in class for Canvas posting also count toward participation.
- Regular participation in class discussion. Participation=clear evidence of having done the reading carefully, responding to other students’ comments and questions, keeping the discussion moving.

GRADED WRITING = 50%
- Assignment # 1 (close reading: poem) (2 p.) Due 2/1
- Assignment # 2 (close reading: short story) (2 p.) Due 2/24
- Assignment # 3 (novel: 3 p.—discuss options with professor) Due 3/30
- Final Paper proposal (1 paragraph, via email subject: yourname_5760_proposal)
- Paper rough draft
- Final paper (8 p.)
EXAM/QUIZZES=20%
  • Midterm Exam (15%)
  • Quizzes As Necessary and Without Warning (5%)

Paper policies: Typewritten, MLA style, Proofread, Grammatical, your own work.
I will not read or grade papers with more than 2 grammatical errors per page. Each paper
must include an argument supported by textual evidence properly introduced and
explicated. All work must be your own; sources must be cited in accordance with MLA
or Chicago style.
Submission & format: Papers must be printed out, double spaced, 12 pt font, and turned
in in class the day they are due. If for any reason you receive permission to email me a
paper, NAME THE FILE yourname_5760_assignment.
Extensions: Extensions available by written request, in an email with
“yourname_extension request” in the subject line, a minimum of 24 hours in advance of
the deadline. Extension request must include new due date.
Final paper: Proposals and rough drafts may be submitted by email following the format
yourname_5760_proposal (or _draft). The final paper is due to my mailbox in 3500
LNCO by 4 PM on Monday May 4.

University Policies

ADA
The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and
activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class,
reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin
Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make
arrangements for accommodations.
All written information in this course can be made available in alternative format with
prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.
Attendance http://www.acs.utah.edu/sched/handbook/attend.htm
Academic Honesty http://www.sa.utah.edu/code/
Drop/Withdrawal and Other Important Dates to Remember
http://www.saff.utah.edu/regist/calendar/datesDeadlines/fall2004.htm
Grades
Grades will be assigned according to the standards reported in the class schedule
http://www.acs.utah.edu/sched/handbook/grpolicy.htm

SCHEDULE OF READINGS

Week 1
1/11 Introduction. Robert Browning: “My Last Duchess”
1/13 Browning: “Porphyria’s Lover” (1836); “Johannes Agricola in Meditation”;
    “Childe Roland to the Dark Tower Came”
    Tzvetan Todorov: “The Uncanny and the Marvelous”
Week 2
1/18  *MLK Day—NO CLASS*
1/20  Alfred Tennyson: “Mariana”; “The Lady of Shalott”
      John William Waterhouse: “The Lady of Shalott” (Tate);
      John Everett Millais: “Mariana” (Tate)
      Edgar Allan Poe: “The Poetic Principle”

Week 3
1/25  Tennyson: *Maud: a Monodrama*
1/27  Continued; Tennyson: “Tithonus”

Week 4
2/1   Christina Rossetti: “Goblin Market”
      *Assignment #1 Due*
2/3   Rossetti: “Winter My Secret”; “When I am dead my dearest”;
      “Dead Before Death”; “My Dream”; “At Home”; “After Death”
      John Everett Millais: “The Artist Attending the Mourning of a Young Girl”
      “Ophelia” (Tate);
      from Elizabeth Bronfen: *Over Her Dead Body*

Week 5
2/10  Nathaniel Hawthorne: “The Birthmark”; “The Oval Portrait”
      from *The Gothic*

Week 6
2/15  Wilkie Collins, *The Woman in White*
2/17  *Woman in White*

Week 7
2/22  *Woman in White*
2.24  *Woman in White*
      *Assignment #2 Due*

Week 8
2/29  *MIDTERM EXAM*
3/2   No Class: Read Sheridan Le Fanu, *Uncle Silas*

Week 9
3/7   *Uncle Silas*
3/9   *Uncle Silas*

SPRING BREAK

Week 10
3/21  Oscar Wilde, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*
3/23  *Dorian Gray*

**Week 11**
3/28  Arthur Conan Doyle: *The Sign of The Four*
Begin Bram Stoker, *Dracula*
Assignment #3 Due

**Week 12**
4/4  Bram Stoker, *Dracula:*
4/6  *Dracula*

**Week 13**
4/11  *Dracula* (Contexts: Gerard, Rymer, reviews; begin Criticism (1st essays))
4/13  Henry James, *The Turn of the Screw*
Final paper proposal due (by email)

**Week 14**
4/18  *The Turn of the Screw* + contexts
Charlotte Perkins Gilman: “The Yellow Wallpaper”
4/20  Kate Chopin: “An Egyptian Cigarette”
Ada Leversion: “A Suggestion”
George Egerton: “A Cross Line”

**Week 15**
4/25  No class. ROUGH DRAFTS DUE: Required.

Class time available for draft conferences. Priority for class-time conferences will be given to students unable to schedule conferences at other times.

Final papers without a rough draft submitted on this date will not be accepted.

**FINAL PAPERS DUE MONDAY MAY 4**