

Loyola University Chicago  
Department of English, Fall 2009  
Dr. Steven J. Venturino (sventur@luc.edu)

British Literature: The Victorian Period  
English 340.105  
MWF 12:35-1:25, Dumbach 235

Office Hours (Crown 450, 773.508.2397): MW 9:15-10:15am, and other times by appointment.

### Required Texts

- Norton Anthology of English Literature*, 8<sup>th</sup> ed. Vol. E: The Victorian Age. Greenblatt, et al., eds. 2006.
- Charles Dickens, *David Copperfield*, Jerome H. Buckley, ed. Norton, 1990.
- George Eliot, *Middlemarch*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Bert G. Hornback, ed. Norton, 2000.
- A writer's handbook, such as the *Harbrace College Handbook*.
- A good dictionary, such as the *Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary* or the *OED* online.

### Recommended Internet Resources

The Victorian Web: <http://www.victorianweb.org/>

On *David Copperfield*: <http://www.victorianweb.org/authors/dickens/dc/index.html>

On *Middlemarch*: [www.victorianweb.org/authors/eliot/middlemarch/middlemarchov.html](http://www.victorianweb.org/authors/eliot/middlemarch/middlemarchov.html)

The Dickens Project: <http://dickens.ucsc.edu/index.html> (see especially the **links** page)

The David Copperfield Site: <http://www.ellopos.net/dickens/copperfield.htm>

LITWEB (writing about literature): <http://wnorton.com/introlit/writing/welcome.asp>

### Course Description and Objectives

This survey of Victorian literature will consider key works of poetry, fiction, and non-fiction prose. Our texts include the *Norton Anthology of English Literature*, 8<sup>th</sup> ed. Vol. E., Charles Dickens's *David Copperfield* and George Eliot's *Middlemarch*. The novels will be read in a serial fashion, with installments to be discussed each week throughout the semester. The aim of the course is to explore—and develop informed approaches to—many of the thematic and formal developments, historical challenges, social concerns, and aesthetic issues involving British literature of the nineteenth century.

### Format for Written Work

All written work for this course (except in-class writing) must be typed, double-spaced, and in accordance with MLA style. Please do not include a separate cover sheet for your essays and commentaries, but simply include the following items in the upper-left-hand corner of your first page: your name, course number, my name, and date. Always proofread your work before handing it in, and staple pages together in the upper-left-hand corner. Particularly important aspects of writing about literature will be explained and discussed throughout the semester, and for reference I also recommend the Norton Web site listed above. This is an upper-division course, and I expect all written work to reflect university-level composition skills.

### Study Guides

Periodically, I will provide you with study guides that will include questions—some factual, some open-ended—to consider while reading. These questions should serve as a guide to some of the more important aspects of the assignments, and you should keep the study guides, respond to each question (even add to or change your responses), and progressively build up your collection

of notes for the entire course.

### **Participation**

Our class discussions depend on two complementary factors: First, I must be prepared to give the class a clear introduction to the material at hand and a good indication of my specific expectations; second, you must be sure to read each assignment actively and have questions or comments in mind and on paper for discussion. Always take notes and annotate your texts while reading. I strongly encourage you to make use of office hours for individual attention to your work throughout the semester. Particularly strong participation in the course—exhibited in class discussion, at office hours, and/or in e-mail exchanges—will raise your course grade by a third of a grade.

### **Attendance & Assignments**

Because of the importance of lecture and class discussion, frequently missing class will lead inevitably to a lower grade. If you miss as many as nine class sessions, you should consider dropping the course. Handing in assignments late will also negatively influence your grade, so be sure to turn in your written work on time. Written assignments will not be accepted more than seven days after they are due. Assignments should not be handed in electronically unless absolutely necessary.

### **Grading**

25% for two commentaries (averaged), final essay 25%, midterm exam 25%, final exam 25%. Letter grades will be given for all assignments, then averaged according to the above distribution to arrive at the final grade.

### **Academic Integrity**

In this upper-division course intended for students well acquainted with the responsibilities of collegiate writing, a single instance of passing along another's words and/or ideas as your own will result in an "F" for the course. Writing about literature always requires close attention to the ideas and words of other writers, but it is absolutely essential that your writing clearly reflects your own efforts. Since other sources will become part of your essays and commentaries, you must be sure that each source represented is given unambiguous credit. I look forward to working with you throughout the semester to develop techniques of effective quotation and citation, so please see me with drafts of any written work. Plagiarism, whether discovered in commentaries, exams, or essays, is a violation of University policy and will be brought to the attention of the English Department Chair, who may also contact the Dean's office in accordance with the statement on academic integrity in the Undergraduate Catalog. Do not submit plagiarized work—it is far better to hand in work that is late, weak, or otherwise uncharacteristic of your best efforts than to turn in material that will lead to irreversible penalties.

## Course Schedule

Page numbers refer to the *Norton Anthology of English Literature*, 8<sup>th</sup> ed. Vol. E. Each assignment should be read in time for active discussion on the dates indicated. Required readings also include the biographical introduction for each assigned author. Other readings from all three course texts will also be assigned and/or recommended throughout the term for exams, papers, and optional reading. Note that changes may be made to this schedule during the semester, and it is your responsibility to keep up to date with any such changes.

- 8/24 Introductions  
8/26 Anthology introduction, 993-99.  
Pater, conclusion to *Studies in the Renaissance* (1511-13)  
8/28 *David Copperfield*, Chapters 1-6
- 8/31 Carlyle, from *Past and Present* (1024-33)  
9/2 Tennyson, "Ulysses" (1123-25)  
9/4 *David Copperfield* chs. 7-12
- 9/7 NO CLASS: Labor Day  
9/9 Commentary 1 due  
Literary terms: meter, rhythm, verse forms (A42-46)  
Tennyson, "The Lady of Shalott" (1114-18)  
9/11 *David Copperfield* chs. 13-24
- 9/14 Arnold, "Dover Beach," "The Buried Life" (1368-69, 1356-58)  
9/16 Mill, from *On Liberty* (1051-61)  
9/18 *David Copperfield* chs. 25-37
- 9/21 E. B. Browning, from *Aurora Leigh* (1092-1100)  
9/23 E. B. Browning, from *Aurora Leigh* (1100-1106)  
9/25 *David Copperfield* chs. 38-50
- 9/28 Huxley, from *Evolution and Ethics* (Blackboard)  
9/30 Kipling, "The White Man's Burden," "Recessional" (1821-22, 1820-21)  
10/2 *David Copperfield* chs. 51-64 (end)
- 10/5 NO CLASS: MIDTERM BREAK  
10/7 Mill, from *The Subjection of Women* (1061-70)  
10/9 **Midterm exam**
- 10/12 D. G. Rossetti, "The Sonnet," (1457)  
10/14 D. G. Rossetti, "The Blessed Damozel" (1443-47)  
10/16 *Middlemarch* book 1

- 10/19 Ruskin, from *Modern Painters* (1320-24),  
10/21 Ruskin, "The Nature of Gothic" (1324-34)  
10/23 *Middlemarch* book 2
- 10/26 R. Browning, "My Last Duchess" (1255-56)  
10/28 R. Browning, "Fra Lippo Lippi" (1271-80)  
10/30 *Middlemarch* book 3
- 11/2 Wilde, "The Critic as Artist" (1689-97)  
11/4 Arnold, from *Culture and Anarchy* (1398-1404)  
11/6 *Middlemarch* book 4
- 11/9 Commentary 2 due  
E. B. Browning, from *Sonnets from the Portuguese* #22 (1084), #13 (Blackboard)  
11/11 C. Rossetti, "Goblin Market" (1466-78)  
11/13 *Middlemarch* books 5 & 6
- 11/16 Doyle, "A Scandal in Bohemia" (Blackboard)  
11/18 Tennyson, sections 50, 54-56 from *In Memoriam A. H. H.* (1157-59)  
11/20 *Middlemarch* book 7
- 11/23 Hopkins, "The Starlight Night" (1516)  
11/25 NO CLASS: THANKSGIVING  
11/27 NO CLASS: THANKSGIVING
- 11/30 *Middlemarch* book 8  
12/2 Hopkins, "Pied Beauty" (1518)  
12/4 Concluding discussions

**Final exam: Friday, Dec. 11, 9-11am (essay due at final)**