

English 650: Victorian London Geographies
Fall 2013/ CRN 17939

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Office Hours: Tuesday 1-4 and by appointment

Class Meetings: Thursdays 2:00-4:50 in PLC 253

Course Description

Joseph Conrad's Marlow prepares his audience for a narrative about Africa by claiming of London, "And this also . . . has been one of the dark places of the earth." Although *Heart of Darkness* wasn't published until 1899, associations between London—or what Marlow calls "the monstrous town,"—and the imperial arena were well established by the early nineteenth century. Imperial contexts were not alone in shaping the spatial turn in representations of Victorian London, however. Over the course of the nineteenth century a dizzying array of demographic, social, technological, and cultural changes inspired both geographical tensions and new ways of imagining the city as modern. Thus, while Dickens aimed to draw in readers with his "attraction of repulsion"; and John Snow, William Booth, and Charles Booth created maps to pinpoint dangerous or imaginary boundaries within the city of London; Henry Mayhew and W. T. Stead popularized a form of investigative journalism that framed the lives of the London poor amidst a wider network of people and social concerns. This course will prompt us to consider some of the ways in which nineteenth-century literary, visual, and print cultures reflected and shaped geographic knowledge of the city. Simon Joyce notes that "Anxiety increases in city-dwellers when they no longer have a clear map of how the major trajectories, borders, and districts stand in relation to one another, and when their sense of the city as a whole ceases to function as a coherent and organizing frame of reference." With this observation in mind, our course readings will center on physical, digital, narrative, and visual constructions of "the monstrous town" produced at a crucial moment when the coherence of London's geography was in the process of being newly formed and imagined as modern.

Course Materials

Print Material (Available at UO bookstore)

Charles Dickens, *Our Mutual Friend*, Oxford University Press (2009):

ISBN-13: 978-0199536252

Margaret Harkness, *In Darkest London*, Germinal Productions, Ltd/ Black Apollo Press (2009): **ISBN-13:** 978-1900355636

Henry Mayhew, *London Labour and the London Poor*, Oxford World's Classics (2012 paperback): **ISBN-13:** 978-0-19-969757

Arthur Morrison, *Child of the Jago*, Oxford World Classics/ OUP (2012):

ISBN-13: 978-0199605514

Lynda Nead, *Victorian Babylon: People, Streets and Images in Nineteenth-Century London*, Yale University Press (2000): **ISBN-13:** 978-0300107708

Robert Louis Stevenson, *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, Broadview (2005; second edition): **ISBN-13:** 978-1551116556

Digital Materials

Blackboard materials, including scholarly sites listed on pages 296-303 of Andrew Stauffer's "Digital Scholarly Resources for the Study of Victorian Literature and Culture" (2010)—on BB

BRANCH

<http://www.branchcollective.org/>

Charles Booth Online Archive:

<http://booth.lse.ac.uk/>

Jack the Ripper Casebook

<http://www.casebook.org/>

NINES

<http://www.nines.org/>

Proceedings of the Old Bailey

<http://www.oldbaileyonline.org/>

UCLA Department of Epidemiology: John Snow

<http://www.ph.ucla.edu/epi/snow.html>

Lee Jackson's Dictionary of Victorian London

<http://www.victorianlondon.org/>

Charles Dickens Page

<http://www.charlesdickenspage.com/index.html>

W.T. Stead Resource Site

<http://www.attackingthedevil.co.uk/>

Our Mutual Friend: The Scholarly Pages

<http://omf.ucsc.edu/>

Art in the Blood:

<http://www.artintheblood.com/>

Connected Histories 1500-1900

<http://www.connectedhistories.org/Default.aspx>

London Lives

<http://www.londonlives.org/>

Victorian Timeline

http://wps.ablongman.com/long_damrosch_britlit_2/0,6737,516494-,00.html

VICTORIA: I invite you to join the scholarly online community, VICTORIA. This listserv is free, open to all, and offers scholars a great way to learn from one another. The VICTORIA archives can also be a terrific resource for research. To subscribe (see the "subscribe" link in the left-hand column):

<https://list.indiana.edu/sympa/arc/victoria>

Course Expectations and Details

Attendance: I expect everyone to attend every class on time and well prepared to discuss each day's assigned readings. If you have an emergency that will keep you from attending a class, please contact me as soon as possible, preferably before class, to let me know that you'll be absent.

Reading: This course will move at a steady pace. You will need to keep up with the reading assignments. Please bring texts to class.

Writing: Unless otherwise noted, all written work is due on blackboard by the assigned date/time. Extensions and incompletes will be given only for documented emergencies. Work should be written in Times New Roman 12 pt. font, one-inch margins, double spaced, page numbers and titles included, and citation format in MLA. Please include your name on all written assignments.

Course Website (blackboard.uoregon.edu): You will need to access this site to upload your writing assignments; access reading materials (indicated by BB on syllabus); receive feedback on your written work; and to find copies of handouts, such as your syllabus.

Meetings: I am happy and eager to meet individually to discuss assignments or research plans. Please feel welcome to set up a meeting time. **Additionally, I'd like to meet with each of you BEFORE YOU BEGIN your final research essays.**

Students with Disabilities: If you have a documented disability and will need accommodation, let me know by week two of the term so that I can make appropriate arrangements. Please request that the office of Disabilities Services send a letter indicating that you've consulted with them about your disability.

Plagiarism: All work submitted in this course must be your own and be written exclusively for this course. The use of sources (ideas, quotations, paraphrases) must be properly documented. Plagiarism will be handled according to the *Student Conduct Code*:

<http://uodos.uoregon.edu/StudentConductandCommunityStandards/StudentConductCode/tabid/69/Default.aspx>

Assessment:

- Class Participation: 10%
- Short Presentation & Essay: 30%
- Annotated Bibliography: 20%
- Final Research Essay: 40%

Writing Assignments

Short Presentation & Essay:

Each class will have 1-2 presentations by members of the class. This assignment should focus on reading(s) assigned for the presentation day. You'll want to begin by raising a question/issue from the assigned reading (primary and/or secondary). Next, you'll engage in a close reading of a passage that complicates/addresses your research question. Finally, you'll discuss the significance of this issue both for the text(s) we're studying and for our understanding of London and/or Victorian culture.

This assignment has both a research and teaching component. In addition to finding and discussing the significance of a research angle/question/problem rooted in or raised by the text, you'll want to think about a way to teach or present that problem. How will you explain the problem succinctly and clearly in class? What examples will you offer to underscore or illuminate the complexity of the problem? How will you get the class engaged in a discussion? Essays should be 5 pages and will be due on the day of your presentation. Presentations should be 10 minutes and will be followed by a class discussion led by the presenter.

Annotated Bibliography and Final Research Project:

Please meet with me to discuss your final project before you begin

Each student will compile and annotate a bibliography of 10 current, peer-reviewed, scholarly resources. Please see me if you have questions about the appropriateness of your research materials. Your final research essay should focus on one of the texts we've studied in this course, and should grow out of the materials you've collected in your annotated bibliography. Final essays should be 10-12 pages; they should have a clear, original argument; and they should be well supported and argued.

Week 1: 10/3 Introductions

Introduction to course and people
Presentation sign up
Discussion of Lynda Nead's *Victorian Babylon*
London Map

Week 2: 10/10 London, Newspapers, and the Periodical Press

Henry Mayhew, *London Labour and the London Poor*
Read ONLY the Introduction by Douglas Fairhurst (also available on Blackboard), Vol I, Vol 2, and Vol 4
Recommended: Mussell "From the Margins and For the Margins"(BB)

Presentation: _____ & _____

(This week only essays may be submitted Monday, 10/14 by 5:00 PM)

Week 3: 10/17: Dickens and London Geography

Charles Dickens, *Our Mutual Friend*, Book I (chapters 1-17)
Franco Moretti “A Tale of Two Cities” (BB)
“Our Mutual Friend Paratexts” (BB)

Presentation: _____ & _____

Week 4: 10/24 Class will not be held this week. Please read the following:

Our Mutual Friend Book II (chapters 1-16) and Book III (chapters 1-17)

Week 5: 10/31 *Our Mutual Friend's Geographies*

Charles Dickens, *Our Mutual Friend*, Book IV (finish)
Michelle Allen, “A More Expansive Reach: Geography of the Thames in *Our Mutual Friend*” (BB)
Pamela K. Gilbert, “Medical Mapping: The Thames, the Body, and *Our Mutual Friend*” (BB)

Presentation: _____ & _____

Week 6: 11/7 Digital Scholarship and Victorian London

Matthew Kirschenbaum, “What is Digital Humanities and What’s it Doing in English Departments?” (BB)
Patrick Leary “Googling the Victorians” (BB)
Andrew M. Stauffer, “Digital Scholarly Resources for the Study of Victorian Literature and Culture” (BB)
Nineteenth Century Serials Edition
<http://www.ncse.ac.uk/index.html>
Proceedings of the Old Bailey
<http://www.oldbaileyonline.org/>

Presentation: _____ & _____

Week 7: 11/14 London Streets

Robert Louis Stevenson, *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*
Introduction to Broadview edition
Recommended: Jack the Ripper Casebook: <http://www.casebook.org/>

Presentation: _____ & _____

Week 8: 11/21 Philanthropy and the Writing of London

Margaret Harkness, *In Darkest London*
Seth Koven, "The American Girl in London" (BB)
"Map" from General William Booth's *In Darkest England and the Way Out* (BB)

Presentation: _____ & _____

**DUE TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27: ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY
(upload to Blackboard by 5:00PM)**

Week 9: 11/28 Thanksgiving: no class

Week 10: 12/5 Narrative's Maps

Arthur Morrison, *Child of the Jago*
Simon Joyce, "Maps and Metaphors: Topographical Representation and the Sense
of Place in Late-Victorian Fiction" (BB)
John L. Kijinski, "Ethnography in the East End" (BB)

Presentation: _____ & _____

Makeup Class Mapmaker's Narratives

Peter Barber, selection from *London: A History in Maps* (140-281) (BB)
Peter Turchi, selection from *Maps of the Imagination* (BB)
Franco Moretti, "Maps" (BB)

Presentation: _____ & _____

**Final Papers should be uploaded to Blackboard no later than Thursday, December 12 at
5:00 PM**