

Professor E. Bohls
Spring 2016
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Office: 527 PLC
Hours: T 12 – 1:30,
W 1:30 - 3 & by appt.

ENGLISH 322: THE NINETEENTH-CENTURY NOVEL

In the 1800s the British novel blossomed. We'll read selected examples, from Jane Austen's 1817 novel of manners to Dickens' 1859 historical novel about the French Revolution and Oscar Wilde's 1890 Gothic fable. We will consider the novel not as a fixed genre, but as a fluid literary form; we'll analyze authors' techniques for creating characters, managing plots, and immersing readers in their fictional worlds. We will also consider the society in and for which the novels were written, using short supplemental readings on issues such as gender, the city, religious prejudice, and early psychology. **ALERT:** Victorian novels are long, and the reading load for this course is considerable. If losing yourself in a fat book is something you enjoy, you may like ENG 322. If not, you may want to choose another course.

REQUIRED TEXTS (Available at Duck Store): Please get the editions specified below:

Jane Austen, *Persuasion*, ed. Linda Bree (ISBN 978-1-55111-131-5), Broadview Press, 1998/2004

Charlotte Brontë, *Villette*, ed. Kate Lawson (ISBN 978-1-55111-461-3), Broadview Press, 2006

George Eliot, *The Mill on the Floss*, ed. Oliver Lovesey (ISBN 978-1-55111-467-5), Broadview Press, 2007

Charles Dickens, *A Tale of Two Cities*, ed. Richard Maxwell (ISBN 978-0-141-43960-0), Penguin Classics, 2000

Oscar Wilde, *The Picture of Dorian Grey*, ed. Joseph Bristow (ISBN 978-0-19-953598-9), Oxford World's Classics, 2006

These editions include supplemental materials that are required reading and will be included on the final exam.

REQUIREMENTS

15% Attendance and participation: includes punctuality and preparedness for class, quality and consistency of contributions to discussions, **and quiz grades.**

5% **each:** Close Readings 1 & 2, due April 7 & May 17

5% Indexing assignment, due April 28

20% Paper 1, 4 pages (**minimum length**), due April 14

25% Paper 2, 5 pages (**minimum length**), due June 2

25% Final exam, take-home, due June 10

QUIZZES: these are unannounced and will focus on the reading due the day of the quiz. They cannot be made up if you are absent that day. However, you may drop one quiz grade from your quiz average for the term. If you do not miss a quiz, your lowest grade will be dropped.

PAPERS: I'm looking for polished gems: thoughtful, concise, graceful treatments with a clear focus. Every word counts. Plan on writing several drafts of each paper (this means getting an early start).

LATE PAPER POLICY: I accept one late paper per term; use this option wisely. If you choose to hand in your paper late, you must inform me by the due date via email or in person. "On time" means in class, on the due date. A late paper is due at the next class meeting after the due date.

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION: I will take attendance at every class using a sign-in sheet. It is your responsibility to arrive **on time** and sign in. **YOU MUST BRING TO EVERY CLASS YOUR COPY OF THE NOVEL WE ARE DISCUSSING.** Your regular attendance is vital to the goals of this course. You may miss **two** class meetings without penalty (and without an excuse). **For each subsequent class missed, your course grade will drop one-third of a letter grade.** I very much appreciate your talking in class, even (especially) if it's an effort for you. Participating in class discussion is also part of your grade and will help you master the material and get ideas for your papers.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- Evaluate literary texts, not merely for comprehension, but with a heightened sensitivity to linguistic ambiguities, competing interpretations, cultural history, and generic traditions.
- Identify how nineteenth-century literature intersects and reflects historical conditions, including gender ideology and conceptions of the British nation.
- Apply close-reading skills to literary and critical texts.
- Apply critical thinking skills to develop sophisticated oral and written interpretations of literary texts.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: if you have a documented disability and will need accommodation, please see me before the second week of the course so that I can make appropriate arrangements. Please have the Office of Disabilities Services send me a letter indicating that you have consulted them about your disability.

PLAGIARISM: All work submitted in this course must be your own and written exclusively for this course. The use of sources (ideas, quotations, paraphrases) must be properly documented. Please see me if you have any questions about your use of sources. Plagiarism will be handled according to the Student Conduct Code.

TUTORING AND HELP: Writing help is available through Academic Learning Services, located in 68 PLC and available by phone at 541-322-3226. I am also very happy to help with essay writing; you may come to my office hours or set up an appointment via email.

SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS

WEEK 1

T Mar. 29 Introductory lecture: the 18th-century rise of the novel

H Mar. 31 *Persuasion* 45-96 and Appendices B, F (Austen bio, the Navy)

WEEK 2

T April 5 *Persuasion* 96-144 and Appendices C, D, E (Austen letters, conduct manuals)

H April 7 *Persuasion* 145-191. **CLOSE READING 1 DUE APRIL 7**

WEEK 3

T April 12 *Persuasion*, 191 - 258 (finish) and Appendix A (the canceled chapter)

H April 14 *Villette*, 71-132, Appendix D (women & work). **PAPER 1 DUE APRIL 14**

WEEK 4

T April 19 *Villette*, 132-233, Appendix F (anti-Catholicism)

H April 21 *Villette*, 235-337

WEEK 5

T April 26 *Villette*, 337-469, Appendix C (women and love)

H April 28 *Villette*, 469-568 (finish). **INDEXING ASSIGNMENT DUE APRIL 28**

WEEK 6

T May 3 *Mill* 51-116 and "Silly Novels by Lady Novelists" (533-38)

H May 5 *Mill*, 116-224

WEEK 7

T May 10 *Mill*, 225-372

H May 12 *Mill*, 373-481

WEEK 8

T May 17 *Mill*, finish, and Appendix B (reviews). **CLOSE READING 2 DUE MAY 17**

H May 19 *Tale of Two Cities*, 5-134

WEEK 9

T May 24 *Tale*, 134-284

H May 26 *Tale*, 285-390 (finish)

WEEK 10

T May 31 *Dorian Grey*, 1-91

H June 2 *Dorian Grey*, 92-188 (finish). **PAPER 2 DUE JUNE 2**

**TAKE-HOME FINAL
DUE FRIDAY, JUNE 10, 10 a.m., 527 PLC**