

ENGL-459-M01
**Nineteenth-Century Writers on the Road:
Travel, Transport and Tourism**
Saint Louis University Madrid Campus
Fall 2010

Instructor: Paul Vita, Ph.D.

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Office Hours: 12:30 - 2:00 p.m., Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays (please make an appointment)

Meeting Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:00-12:15

Room: Padre Rubio Hall – Room 13

Course Description: An examination of four major works of the long nineteenth century, with attention to narrative constructions of geographical and social mobility. An exploration into the extent to which travel, transport and tourism influenced politics, social thought, and artistic inspiration as reflected in literary works. Special attention to the construction of the other; historical modes of transportation; immigration and expatriation; narrative perspectives/constructions of location; the function of digression in narrative; and relating these issues to students' own cross-cultural experiences.

Curricular Information: ENGL-459 fulfills the upper-division Core literature requirement of the College of Arts and Sciences; it also satisfies the post-1800 requirement for the English major and lays the groundwork for graduate study. In the course students will analyze in detail four nineteenth-century British narratives in the context of British literary tradition. Drawing on courses taken at the 200- and 300-level, students further extend their grasp of theories and methods of analysis and their understanding of historical and cultural contexts. Reading and writing assignments in this course are more extensive than those in intermediate courses and require more intensive analysis and more attention to secondary scholarship and criticism.

Course Goals: Students will:

- Read four works of interest to specialists in English literature.
- Analyze the four literary works closely, with attention to historical and cultural contexts and to well-articulated theories and methods of literary analysis.
- Further develop their critical reading and discussion skills.
- Write a minimum of 15 pages of graded prose analysis (3000-4000 words), including the equivalent of an argumentative term paper.
- Synthesize and evaluate primary and secondary sources.
- Develop creative and critical thinking and writing skills through papers, quizzes, exams, and active participation in discussion.

Learning Outcomes in Relation to the Five Dimensions of the SLU Experience

Reflective of its mission, Saint Louis University strives to engage its students in five interrelated dimensions contributing to the development of the whole person: 1) scholarship and knowledge, 2) intellectual inquiry and communication, 3) community building, 4) leadership and service, and 5) spirituality and values. Reading, analyzing, discussing, and writing about four literary masterpieces are activities that participate, of

course, in the first two of these dimensions. In the course students will also come to discover that the seminar itself is a community, part of the community of literary scholars and researchers at the Madrid Campus and Saint Louis University; furthermore, students who read these works and the critical discussion surrounding them join an even larger community, one that comprises generations of writers and readers who are in a timeless (and borderless) conversation about and with literary texts. These four narratives, multiform and all-encompassing in their own right, are deeply engaged in nineteenth-century debates—over faith and doubt, over social justice and reform, over the value of literature, over what it means to be human—issues that remain urgently relevant to readers in the twenty-first century.

Required Primary Texts: All texts are available through the Madrid Campus Book Service; there are also accessible through Project Gutenberg (though on-line versions are not as carefully edited).

Byron, *Don Juan*
Dickens, *Bleak House*
Barrett Browning, *Aurora Leigh*
Conrad, *Nostramo*

Course Requirements:

1. Attendance, Preparation, and Participation in all class meetings.
2. Written Work (written work should follow MLA style guidelines):
 - ◆ Four short papers (2-3 pages, plus bibliography)
 - ◆ An annotated bibliography related to research project, due the tenth week of class.
 - ◆ An in-depth, longer study (8-10 pages) on a subject of your choice related to the writers under consideration, a version of which you will present in class during the final week of the course.
3. Two exams: a midterm and a final.

SLU Global/Blackboard: All course handouts, including this syllabus, will be posted on Blackboard, available through my SLU. In addition, students will be able to access assignments, a course calendar, their grades, and additional resources on-line via this learning technology.

Libraries and Research: While the SLU Madrid Library's collection is a modest one, there are several critical and theoretical works of especial interest to students in the class. In addition to the *PMLA*, students have access to the Proxy Server—perhaps Madrid's finest collection of electronic journals and databases—which hosts the MLA International Bibliography, the Oxford English Dictionary On-line, the Wellesley Index to Victorian Periodicals 1824-1900, Academic Search Premier, JSTOR, Project Muse, and 19th Century Masterfile. Students have reading privileges at other libraries in Madrid, including the National Library, UAM and UCM. Materials may be borrowed from me directly as well. Finally, I direct students to Alan Liu's *Voice of the Shuttle* (<http://vos.ucsb.edu/>) as an entry point for relevant links to information available on the world wide web and the *Victorian Web*.

E-mail: Announcements and additional information will often be handled by e-mail. Please check your @slu.edu e-mail regularly.

Special Accommodations: Students with Disabilities: Any student who qualifies for special accommodations, due to presence of a disability, and feels it necessary to utilize them in order to meet the requirements of this course-as outlined in the syllabus, should contact Counseling/Disability Services. Please phone the office at 91 554-5858 (Ext. 230), or send an e-mail to vandrew1@slu.edu. Students may also stop by the Counseling/Disabilities Services office in the Manresa building. Confidentiality will be observed in all inquiries.

Statement on Academic Integrity: Saint Louis University is a community of learning in which integrity and mutual trust are vital. Since the mission of the University is "the pursuit of truth for the greater glory of God and for the service of humanity," acts of falsehood violate its very reason for existence. We will discuss this matter during the first weeks of class, but students are asked to review the University's complete statement on academic honesty posted at:
http://spain.slu.edu/academics/academic_advising/docs/Academic_integrity.pdf.

Grading Rubrics:	Participation and Presentations	20%
	Written Work	80%

Bibliography of Theoretical and Critical Resources

Some Backgrounds

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Barrett Browning's *Aurora Leigh*

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Course Schedule:

Thursday, September 2: Course Introduction

Part I - Travel and the Novel: Dickens and Conrad

Tuesday, September 7: *Bleak House* (I-III: 1-10)

Thursday, September 9: *Bleak House* (IV-V: 11-16)

Tuesday, September 14: *Bleak House* (VI-VIII: 17-25) Special Guest Lecture

Last Day to Drop a Class Without a Grade of W and/or to Add a Class

Wednesday, September 15: Application Deadline for Fall Semester Degree Candidates

Thursday, September 16: *Bleak House* (IX-X: 26-32)

Tuesday, September 21: *Bleak House* (XI-XIII: 39-43)

Thursday, September 23: *Bleak House* (XIV-XV: 43-49)

Friday, September 24: No Classes

Tuesday, September 28: *Bleak House* (XVI-XX: 50-67)

Wednesday, September 29: Last Day to Choose Audit (AU) or Pass/No Pass (P/NP)

Options

Thursday, September 30: *Bleak House*

DUE: Dickens Response

Tuesday, October 5: *Nostramo* – Part I "The Silver of the Mines"

Thursday, October 7: *Nostramo*

Tuesday, October 12: No Class

Thursday, October 14: *Nostramo* – Part II “The Isabels”
Friday, October 15: Last Day to Submit Transfer Application for Spring Semester

Tuesday, October 19: *Nostramo* – Part III “The Lighthouse”
Thursday, October 21: Midterm Examination

DUE: Conrad Response

Part II - Travel and the Nineteenth-Century Epic: Byron and Browning

Tuesday, October 26: *Don Juan* (Introductory Matter and Canto I)
Thursday, October 28: *Don Juan* (Canto II)
Friday, October 29: Last Day to Drop a Class and Receive a Grade of W

Tuesday, November 2: *Don Juan* (Cantos III-V)
Thursday, November 4: *Don Juan* (Cantos VI-X)

DUE: Research Proposals

Monday, November 8: Registration for Spring 2011 Begins
Tuesday, November 9: No Class
Thursday, November 11: *Don Juan* (Cantos XI-XIII)

Tuesday, November 16: *Don Juan* (Cantos XI-XIII)
Thursday, November 18: *Don Juan* (Cantos XIV-XVII)

DUE: Byron Response and Annotated Research Bibliography

Tuesday, November 23: *Aurora Leigh* – Books I-II
Thursday, November 25: *Aurora Leigh* – Book III

Tuesday, November 30: *Aurora Leigh* – Books IV-V
Thursday, December 2: *Aurora Leigh* – Book VI

Tuesday, December 7: *Aurora Leigh* – Books VII-VIII
Thursday, December 9: *Aurora Leigh* – Book IX

DUE: Barrett Browning Response

Tuesday, December 11: Conclusions, Evaluations and Celebration
DUE: Research Paper

Monday, December 20 - 12:00-15:00: Final Exam