

ENGL-653-M01
The Nineteenth-Century Novel

Saint Louis University Madrid Campus
Fall 2012

Instructor: Paul Vita, Ph.D.
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Office: San Ignacio Hall – Dean’s Office
Office Hours: By appointment
Meeting Time: Mondays, 14:00-16:45
Room: Conference Room – Dean’s Office

Course Description: The voices of Victorian novelists, in dialogue with each other and their readers. The course takes a dialectic approach, foregrounding the tensions that inevitably arise when contextualizing and interpreting the form. It also provides students with the opportunity to read foundational writings about narrative, to apply them to nineteenth-century novels, and to engage with the issues such application entails.

Students will...

Read, analyze and discuss five masterpieces of narrative, as well as critical works that support interpretations of the texts, with attention to historical and cultural contexts and to theories and methods of literary analysis.

Present their responses to, evaluation of, and engagement with the primary and secondary texts weekly, both through formal presentations and during class discussions.

Write a minimum of 20 pages of prose analysis and scholarship, including the equivalent of a paper to be presented at a professional conference and revised for publication.

Required Primary Texts

Persuasion – Austen (1816)
Jane Eyre – C. Brontë (1847)
Great Expectations – Dickens (1860-61)
Middlemarch – Eliot (1871-72)
Jude the Obscure – Hardy (1896)

All **Required Secondary/Theoretical Texts** not available in electronic formats have been gathered together and will be placed on SLU Global.

Course Requirements:

1. Attendance, preparation, and participation in all class meetings.
2. Submission of handouts that accompany presentations in class.

3. Research project, including a paper proposal, an annotated bibliography, a draft for presentation (8 pages), an abstract, and the first draft of a longer version of the conference presentation (10-20 pages).

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, of course, have borrowing privileges from the Humanities library at UAM and reading privileges at other libraries in Madrid, including the National Library and UCM. In a pinch, some texts 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 e-mail regularly.

Special Accommodations: In recognition that people learn in a variety of ways and that learning is influenced by multiple factors (e.g., prior experience, study skills, learning disability), resources to support student success are available on campus. Students who think they might benefit from these resources can find out more about:

- Course-level support (e.g., faculty member, departmental resources, etc.) by asking your course instructor.
- University-level support (e.g., tutoring/writing services, Disability Services) by visiting the Academic Dean's Office (San Ignacio Hall) or by going to http://spain.slu.edu/academics/learning_resources.html.

Students who believe that, due to a disability, they could benefit from academic accommodations are encouraged to contact Disability Services at +34 915 54 58 58, ext. 204, send an e-mail to counselingcenter-madrid@slu.edu, or to visit the Counseling Office (San Ignacio Hall). Confidentiality will be observed in all inquiries. Course instructors support student accommodation requests when an approved letter from Disability Services has been received and when students discuss these accommodations with the instructor after receipt of the approved letter.

Statement on Academic Integrity: All students should read carefully Saint Louis University's Policy on Academic Honesty, which will be reviewed during the first class session.

Grading Rubrics:

Participation and Presentations	20%
Written Work (including write-ups)	80%

Course Schedule:

Monday, September 10: Course Introduction
Week of September 17-21: Persuasion

Monday, September 24: Jane Eyre I
Thursday, September 27: Guest Lecture on Dickens
Monday, October 1: Jane Eyre II
Monday, October 8: Great Expectations I
Monday, October 15: Great Expectations II
Monday, October 22: Middlemarch I
Monday, October 29: Middlemarch II
Monday, November 5: Middlemarch III
Monday, November 12: Jude the Obscure
Monday, November 19: Proposals Due
Monday, November 26: Bibliography Presentations
Monday, December 3: Paper Presentations
Monday, December 10: Conclusions and Evaluations
Monday, December 17: Final Papers Due (Individual Conferences/Make-up class)

Topics for Discussion

Novels, History and Politics
“The Reading Process”
Heteroglossia and the Novel (Bakhtin)
Community, Nation and Empire
Genres and Subgenres
Narrative Structures and Strategies
Identities: Heroes and Heroines
Nineteenth-Century Realism
Reception in Spain and Europe
Material Culture/History of the Book
Film and Literature
Teaching the Nineteenth-Century Novel
Theory of the Novel

List of Theoretical Resources

Anderson, Benedict. *Imagined Communities*
Auerbach, Erik. *Mimesis: The Representation of Reality in Western Literature*
Bakhtin, M. M. *The Dialogic Imagination*
Benjamin, Walter. *Imaginations*
Booth, Wayne. *The Rhetoric of Fiction*
Brooks, Peter. *Reading for the Plot*
Chapman, Seymour. *Story and Discourse: Narrative Structure in Fiction and Film*
Eco, Umberto. *Interpretation and Overinterpretation*
Genette, Gerard. *Narrative Discourse*
Gerard, Rene. *Deceit, Desire, and the Novel*
Iser, Wolfgang. *The Implied Reader*
Jameson, Fredric. *The Political Unconscious: Narrative as a Socially Symbolic Act*
Kermode, Frank. *The Sense of an Ending*
Said, Edward. *Orientalism*
Williams, Raymond. *Culture and Society 1780-1950*

Suggested Critical Texts

The following list is a selection of canonical (and not so canonical) works of criticism on Victorian fiction and the Victorian age, works that certainly inform my class discussions.

- Altick, Richard. *The English Common Reader: A Social History of the Mass Reading Public: 1800-1900*
- Armstrong, Nancy. *Desire and Domestic Fiction: A Political History of the Novel*
- Barreca, Regina ed. *Sex and Death in Victorian Literature*
- Beer, Gillian. *Darwin's Plots: Evolutionary Narrative in Darwin, George Eliot, and Nineteenth-Century Fiction*
- Briggs, Asa. *Victorian People: A Reassessment of Persons and Themes 1851-1867*
- Childers, Joseph. *Novel Possibilities: Fiction and the Formation of Early Victorian Culture*
- David, Deirdre. *Rule Britannia: Women, Empire, and Victorian Writing*
- Flint, Kate. *The Woman Reader 1837-1914*
- Garret, Peter. *The Victorian Multiplot Novel*
- Gilbert, Sandra and Susan Gubar. *The Madwoman in the Attic*
- Hardy, Barbara. *Forms of Feeling in Victorian Fiction*
- Houghton, Walter E. *The Victorian Frame of Mind, 1830-1870*
- Hollington, Michael. *Dickens and the Grotesque*
- Jordan, John O. and Robert L. Patten, ed. *Literature in the Marketplace. Nineteenth-Century British Publishing and Reading Practices*
- Kucich, John. *Repression in Victorian Fiction: Charlotte Brontë, George Eliot, and Charles Dickens*
- Maynard, John. *Victorian Discourses on Sexuality and Religion*
- Millar, D. A. *Narrative and Its Discontents: Problems of Closure in the Traditional Novel*
- Miller, J. Hillis. *The Form of Victorian Fiction*
- Morley, John. *Death, Heaven, and the Victorians*
- Patten, Robert L. *Charles Dickens and His Publishers*
- Porter, Roy. *Bodies Politic: Disease, Death and Doctors in Britain 1650-1900*
- Rothfield, Lawrence. *Vital Signs: Medical Realism in Nineteenth-Century Fiction*
- Sutherland, John A. *Victorian Fiction: Writers, Publishers, Readers*