

English 151: The Nineteenth-Century Novel

Spring 2006
T Th 2-3, Boylston 110
office hours: Thu. 3-5, Barker 271
<http://www.courses.fas.harvard.edu/~eng151/>

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Thursday, Feb. 2 Introduction
Tuesday, Feb. 7 Introduction, continued
Thursday, Feb. 9 Pride and Prejudice (vol. 1)
Tuesday, Feb. 14 Pride and Prejudice (vol. 2)
Thursday, Feb. 16 Pride and Prejudice (vol. 3)
Tuesday, Feb. 21 North and South (through chapter 12)
 *response paper on Pride and Prejudice due in section
Thursday, Feb. 23 North and South (through chapter 40)
Tuesday, Mar. 28 North and South (complete)
 *response paper on North and South due in section
Thursday, Mar. 2 Vanity Fair (through chapter 13)
Tuesday, Mar. 7 Vanity Fair (through chapter 33)
 *response paper on Vanity Fair due in section
Thursday, Mar. 9 Vanity Fair (through chapter 50)
Tuesday, Mar. 14 Vanity Fair (complete)
Thursday, Mar. 16 MIDTERM
Tuesday, Mar. 21 Bleak House (through chapter 10)
Thursday, Mar. 23 No class meeting
March 28 and 30 Spring break
Tuesday, April 4 Bleak House (through chapter 46)
 *response paper on Bleak House due in section
Thursday, April 6 Bleak House (through chapter 59)
 MONDAY, APRIL 10: PAPER DUE
Tuesday, April 11 Bleak House (complete)
Thursday, April 13 The Warden (chapters 1-10)
Tuesday, April 18 The Warden (complete)
 *response paper on The Warden due in section
Thursday, April 20 Middlemarch (prelude and book 1)
Tuesday, April 25 Middlemarch (books 2-4)
 *response paper on Middlemarch due in section
Thursday, April 27 Middlemarch (books 5-6)
Tuesday, May 2 Middlemarch (complete)
Thursday, May 4 Finale

Section will meet once a week at a time to be arranged.

Requirements:

–6 one-to-two page response papers to be handed in at the beginning of section in the weeks marked; these will not be individually graded but will count toward your grade for class participation (20%)

--Midterm (15%)

--5-7-pp. paper, due Monday April 10 by 4:00 in your TF's box (20%)

--6-8-pp. paper, due Monday May 17 by 4:00 in your TF's box (25%)

--Final exam (20%)

Books available at the Coop (buy these editions if possible):

Jane Austen, Pride and Prejudice (1813), ed. Donald Gray (Norton)

Elizabeth Gaskell, North and South (1855), ed. Patricia Ingham (Penguin)

William Thackeray, Vanity Fair (1848), ed. Peter Shillingsburg (Norton)

Charles Dickens, Bleak House (1853), ed. Nicola Bradbury (Penguin)

Anthony Trollope, The Warden (1855), ed. Michael Sadleir (Oxford)

George Eliot, Middlemarch (1872), ed. Rosemary Ashton (Penguin)

Victorian novels are exceptionally gripping, absorbing, and intellectually ambitious; they are also exceptionally LONG. No previous coursework in the English department is required for the course – and freshmen as well as non-majors are welcome -- but you should enroll only if you think that you'll enjoy spending a large proportion of your waking hours in the company of novels. Readings and papers must be completed by the dates specified; any paper submitted late without advance permission will be penalized by 1/3 of a grade per day (e.g., a B+ paper becomes a B).

The five response papers (one to two pages, typed, double-spaced) must be handed in at the beginning of section in the weeks indicated. Response papers may explore any aspect of the text that strikes you as interesting or puzzling, contrast the current week's text with one read earlier in the semester, choose a passage of the text to close-read, or raise questions that you would like to develop in a final paper or to discuss in class. Because these papers are designed as warmup for class discussion, they must examine the text assigned for the week on which they are due (rather than the previous week's); for the same reason, extensions will not be given on response papers.

My office hours are Thursdays 3-5 in Barker 271; no appointment is needed. All members of the class are encouraged (though by no means required) to come to office hours at least once in the semester, either to discuss paper ideas, to follow up on questions raised in class, or simply to talk about any aspect of the novels that interests them. I am also happy to meet for lunch in your House, singly or in a group, to discuss the readings or just to talk more informally about literature.

Some useful electronic resources (you can access these links directly on the course website):

Oxford English Dictionary Online. <http://80-dictionary.oed.com.ezp2.harvard.edu/entrance.dtl>

JSTOR (Journal Storage): database containing full text of selected journals.

<http://nrs.harvard.edu/urn-3:hul.eresource:jstorage>

MLA Bibliography: bibliographic database of recent literary criticism.

<http://nrs.harvard.edu/urn-3:hul.eresource:mlabibli>

Literature On-line: site linking to full text for most canonical literary works in English, plus full text of reference works including *Encyclopedia of the Novel* (ed. Schellinger) and *Princeton Encyclopedia of Poetry and Poetics* <http://80-lion.chadwyck.com.ezpl.harvard.edu>

Jack Lynch's Literary Resources Pages. <http://andromeda.rutgers.edu/~jlynch/Lit/victoria.html>.

The Victoria Research Web. <http://victorianresearch.org/>

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

Mitsuharu Matsuoka's Victorian Web Sites. <http://lang.nagoya-u.ac.jp/~matsuoka/Victorian.html>

Alan Liu's Victorian Voice of the Shuttle <http://vos.ucsb.edu/browse.asp?id=2751>

The Dickens Page. <http://lang.nagoya-u.ac.jp/~matsuoka/Dickens.html>

The Dickens Project. <http://humwww.ucsc.edu/dickens/index.html>