

ENGLISH 336 11J: The Nineteenth Century British Novel

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Office Hours: MW 10-11:30, T 4-5:30 and by appointment

Course Description: In this course, we will be considering the novel as a lens through which Victorian novelists examined the basic structure and values of English society. Through a study of novels from Austen to Conrad, we will consider the gradual emergence of social criticism in the novel, and examine recent critical theory on the relationship between the classic Victorian novel and the growth of Empire in the nineteenth century.

Texts:

Austen Pride and Prejudice

Emily Bronte Wuthering Heights

Charles Dickens David Copperfield

W. M. Thackeray Vanity Fair

Wilkie Collins The Moonstone

Joseph Conrad Heart of Darkness

Course Requirements:

- 1) Reading: you will be asked to read approximately 200 pages a week; in addition, there will be some secondary readings in Victorian nonfiction and critical theory.
- 2) Weekly reading responses, 1-2 pages, due every Tuesday.
- 3) Midterm takehome exam
- 4) One formal research paper
- 5) Occasional classroom exercises, quizzes
- 6) final exam

Policies:

Attendance: You should be present for every class and prepared to participate. If you are absent, you are responsible for informing yourself about any missed assignments or announcements, and for material covered during that class. All absences should be for good reason; however, you may miss two classes without explanation. I will lower your grade for every unexcused absence after these two. Excessive absences (more than five) may be cause for dropping you from the class.

Class Participation: This will count for 20% of your grade. For full credit, you will need to attend every class ready to participate. This means not just responding when called on, but coming to class with questions from the reading and topics for discussion, responding

to other students' comments on the text, and taking active responsibility for the liveliness and pertinence of discussion.

Plagiarism: In this course, as in all other courses, you are bound by the Honor Code. Therefore, the work you submit for this class must be your own. If you use any outside sources in your writing for this course, you must acknowledge them by using the MLA system of documentation, which is presented in detail in *The Bedford Handbook*. **All Websites or other Internet sources must be acknowledged and documented.** If you have any questions regarding the Honor Code as it applies to this course, please consult me or pages 94-97 of the Oxford College catalog.

Grade breakdown:

Weekly responses	30%
Midterm	10%
Research Paper	20%
Class Participation	20%
Final Exam	20%

All grades for this course will be recorded using the plus/minus scale described on page 32 of the Oxford College catalog.

Tentative Outline of Topics to be covered:

Aug 27	Introduction and Objectives
Sept 1-3	<u>Pride and Prejudice</u>
	Labor Day
Sept 8- Sept 10	<u>Pride and Prejudice</u>
Sept 15-17 Sept 22-24, 29	<u>Pride and Prejudice</u> ; start <u>Wuthering Heights</u> <u>Wuthering Heights</u>
Oct 1st	<u>David Copperfield</u>
Oct 6-8	<u>David Copperfield</u>
Oct 12-13	Fall Break
Oct 15	<u>David Copperfield</u>
Oct 20	Takehome Midterm due; start <u>Vanity Fair</u>

Oct 22-29 Vanity Fair

Nov 3-Nov 10 Vanity Fair

Nov 5 Proposal for research paper due

Nov 17 The Moonstone **Complete first version of research paper due/peer reviews organized**

Nov 12, 19, 24 The Moonstone

Nov 25-27 Thanksgiving Break

Dec 1 **Research paper with first version and peer reviews due**

Heart of Darkness

Dec 3, 8 Heart of Darkness

Final Exam Thursday, December 10, 9-12AM