

ENL 4251 (TOPICS IN VICTORIAN LITERATURE)

VICTORIAN (BY) NATURE:
ECOLOGY AND MONSTROSITY IN BRITAIN, 1837-1901

SPRING 2017

*“Who trusted God was love indeed
And love Creation’s final law
Tho’ Nature, red in tooth and claw
With ravine, shriek’d against his creed”*
—Alfred Lord Tennyson, *In Memoriam A.H.H.* (1850), Canto 56

This course covers the literature and culture of nature and the environment in Britain during Victoria’s reign (1837-1901). Our texts will transport us back to the time of great sea monsters and bad taxidermy; of grimy Dickensian London where it would not have been entirely out of the ordinary to encounter an escaped zoo animal in the streets; where the construction of the world’s most advanced railroad unearthed the bones of prehistoric monsters embedded in British soil; where a wombat was a fashionable pet for poets and even the placid pastoral of the English countryside had its dark side.

We will read some of the period’s greatest literary achievements, delve into some lesser-known masterpieces, and have the opportunity to do some original research in digital Victorian archives. Topics will include gender, race, class, empire, exhibitions, nonhuman animals, dinosaurs, evolution, urbanization, sanitation, land and sea, wildness and domesticity, and the Gothic. Our theoretical approach will be largely ecocritical, also drawing on animal studies, feminist and queer theory, postcolonialism, and historicism.

MEETING TIME AND LOCATION

Tuesday/Thursday 1-2.15pm @ Building 86, Room 116

CONTACT INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Kelly Bushnell

Office: Building 50 / Room 244

kbushnell@uwf.edu

Office Hours: Monday/Tuesday, 11.30am-12.30pm and by appointment.

Teaching Assistant: Hannah Trevino (htrevino@uwf.edu)

REQUIRED TEXTS

For this upper-division literature course you will require **three novels...**

- Charlotte Brontë, *Jane Eyre* (Oxford UP) – ISBN #9780199535590
- Emily Brontë, *Wuthering Heights* (Oxford UP) – ISBN #9780199541898
- Thomas Hardy, *Far From the Madding Crowd* (Oxford UP) – ISBN #9780199537013

(You *must* buy these exact editions; they are readily available in the UWF bookstore and online (new and used), for under \$10 each. Having a different edition means that not only will you be missing the supplemental information specific to these editions but your page numbers will be different which will cause you unnecessary headaches.)

...and the Course Reader, which you can only buy at the UWF bookstore. We won't need our Course Readers until 2/23, so I will let you know as soon as the bookstore has them in stock.

I have made the rest of our readings for the first few weeks of class available as PDFs on our eLearning course page. Most of them are short; thus, you *must* print the material and bring it to class with your annotations on it. Do not expect to look at texts on your tablet/computer/phone.¹

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

The official SLOs:

- Critical Thinking (Analysis and Evaluation): Exhibit discipline-based higher order thinking skills.
- Communication (Writing): Communicate effectively and persuasively in multiple writing modes.

My goals for you:

- Gain a familiarity with the literature and culture of the Victorian Age in Britain and its colonies (including major authors and movements), especially the human relationship to the natural world in this period.
- Understand the ways Victorian Britain impacts the world as we know it in 2017.
- Continue to strengthen our literary analytical skills (including using specific literary and critical terms when speaking and writing about assigned work). Also: to continue sharpen our critical eyes toward the myriad “texts” always around us, to speak and write lucidly about them, and take these skills into our other studies and our careers.

ASSIGNMENTS, QUIZZES/EXAMS, AND GRADING

Grading breaks down as follows...

- 1 Essay – 30%
- 10 Quizzes – 20%
- Final (Symposium) Project – 30%
- Attendance – 20%

...and is on the standard 100-point scale: A (100-93), A- (92-90), B+ (89-88), B (87-83), B- (82-80), C+ (79-78), C (77-73), C- (72-70), D+ (69-68), D (67-60).

¹ There is nothing inherently wrong with reading on a device, but for this introductory literature class we will need to circle, to

LATE WORK

Late work will have 5% deducted for every day it is late. Failing to turn in an assignment at all will make it practically impossible for you to pass the course.²

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance is absolutely, completely, totally crucial and non-negotiable. For literature courses like ours, the classroom is where the magic happens when all of our different perspectives (and my decades of rigorous intellectual training) all collide in a fabulous swirling eddy of ideas. If you must miss class you are responsible for what you missed and should arrange to get notes and assignments from a classmate.³ Furthermore, arriving late to class is disrespectful and disruptive, and will count as one half of one absence.

Here is the attendance policy as dictated by the state of Florida: Attendance policies for General Studies courses such as LIT 2000 are dictated by the General Studies Course Attendance Policy for FTIC (First Time in College) Students, which reads “Student attendance in General Studies Courses is mandatory” (AC-33.01-12/14). This is a General Education course for which regular attendance and participation is required. Classes will include short attendance assignments that may only be turned in during the class meeting time. If you miss class or do not complete the attendance record or task, you are absent. Only those absences that are defined in the University class attendance policy will be considered excused absences. You are allowed 2 unexcused absences in this class. If you have more than 2 unexcused absences, your final grade will be reduced by one step (e.g. B to B-).

Information for students who receive financial aid: To receive financial aid on the normal distribution timeline, attendance must be confirmed within seven calendar days of the course start date. A student may review confirmed attendance status by using the "My Classes" app in MyUWF. A student who stops attending class for any reason will **not** automatically be withdrawn and will still be responsible for any missed work. A student who stops attending class may be awarded a grade of NF. This grade may affect financial aid eligibility or require repayment of funds awarded.

A FEW NOTES ON CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENT

Being prepared for class looks like this: You are on time, in your seat, with your text out, and I can clearly see that you have annotated said text.⁴ Your phone is out of sight⁵ along with anything else distracting, and while there is no food allowed in classrooms you might sip along on a coffee or tea. It's nice to talk about books with friends over a coffee or tea.

We are all adults here, and this is an educational institution, so I expect you to act accordingly. This classroom is a safe space for the exchange and development of ideas. We are here to learn together; I will always listen to you respectfully and expect the same from every member of the class. Instructors reserve the right to remove disruptive or disrespectful students from class.

I make no assumptions about anyone's gender identities. Please let me know if there is a name or set of pronouns other than what is listed on my roster by which you wish to be known.

² If a [sharknado](#) touches down on your residence hall and you are forced to flee into the night I might grant you an extension provided it is properly documented (doctor's note for your bite wound, etc). *Please* do not leave your assignments until the night before they are due, because that is when the (real and emotional) sharknadoes always hit.

³ Please do not sidle up to me when you come back and ask, “Did I miss anything important?” because I will go into my sad place.

⁴ Perhaps take your cue from Uriah in Charles Dickens' *David Copperfield*: “I found Uriah reading a great fat book, with such demonstrative attention, that his lank forefinger followed up every line as he read, and made clammy tracks along the page (or so I fully believed) like a snail.”

⁵ A ringing phone will be placed in a tank of live piranhas and the owner will be asked to retrieve it.

ACADEMIC CONDUCT AND PLAGIARISM

The Student Code of Conduct sets forth the rules, regulations, and expected behavior of students enrolled at UWF. Violations of any rules, regulations, or behavioral expectations may result in a charge of violating the Student Code of Conduct. It is the student's responsibility to read the Student Code of Conduct and comply with these expectations. The Academic Misconduct Policy defines various forms of academic misconduct and describes the procedures an instructor should follow when he or she suspects that a student has violated the Academic Misconduct Policy.

Plagiarism is a very serious problem on college campuses; thus, most instructors (myself included) use plagiarism detection software. Plagiarism is the use of anyone else's ideas or words without giving proper credit. Cheating includes copying someone else's work, turning in work done by someone else, or turning in work that has been submitted in another class by you or anyone else. The consequences of either plagiarism or cheating are an automatic zero on the work in question (and likely failure of the course) and discipline by the college. See the excellent UWF library resources on Using Sources Ethically here: http://uwf.edu/library/research_help/using-sources-ethically/.

ASSISTANCE FOR STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

The University of West Florida supports an inclusive learning environment for all students. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that hinder your full participation, such as time-limited exams, inaccessible web content, or the use of non-captioned videos and podcasts, reasonable accommodations can be arranged. Prior to receiving accommodations, you must register with the [Student Disability Resource Center](#) (SDRC). Appropriate academic accommodations will be determined based on the documented needs of the individual. For information regarding the registration process, e-mail sdrc@uwf.edu or call 850.474.2387.

VETERANS RESOURCE CENTER

The UWF Military & Veterans Resource Center (MVRC) serves as a leading campus advocate for military and veteran students, working to ensure the needs of these individuals are met through coordinating with multiple university offices and services. The center provides assistance with the following: GI Bill education benefits, active duty tuition assistance, out of state fee waiver, tutoring, paper reading, counseling, disability accommodations, coordinating academic advising and referral to state /federal resources and services. The MVRC is located in Building 38. For more information on MVRC service, call 474-2550 or visit <http://uwf.edu/militaryveterans>.

UWF WRITING LAB

UWF has a spectacular Writing Lab with a range of *free* services. Book a one-on-one paper-reading appointment with one of the "Labbies"⁶ who will assist you with revisions in content, form, mechanics, and style of your essays. Check out their services here: <http://uwf.edu/cassh/support-resources/writing-lab/>.

LASTLY, PLEASE BE PROACTIVE ABOUT YOUR EDUCATION. If at any time you have questions or concerns about the class, please see me. Furthermore, I understand that you all have responsibilities outside of class to family, work, etc. If there is something major happening in your life that you feel comfortable sharing with me I hope you will, so that I know how to best support you in your studies during that time.

⁶ They are humans, not Labradors (but don't hold it against them, they are just as wonderful).

ENL 4251 COURSE SCHEDULE

INTRODUCTIONS TO THE VICTORIANS AND (THEIR) NATURE

Tuesday 1/10: Introductions to each other and to the course.

What is Victorian?

<p>Thursday 1/12</p> <p>Charles Dickens, <i>Bleak House</i> (Chapter 1, 1852) – [eLearning]</p>	
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ALFRED LORD TENNYSON AND “NATURE, RED IN TOOTH AND CLAW” (1830s—)

<p>Tuesday 1/17</p> <p>Alfred Lord Tennyson, “The Kraken” (1830) – [eLearning]</p>	<p>Due: Reading Quiz #1</p>
<p>Thursday 1/18:</p> <p>Tennyson, “In Memoriam” (Prologue; 1-28, 34-36) – [eLearning]</p>	
<p>Tuesday 1/24</p> <p>Tennyson, “In Memoriam” (45-58, 79-83, 89) – [eLearning]</p>	
<p>Thursday 1/26</p> <p>“In Memoriam” (95, 99-100, 107-108, 115-124, Ep.) – [eLearning]</p> <p>+ Read at least one critical essay on “In Memoriam” – [eLearning]</p>	<p>Reading Quiz #2</p>

CHARLOTTE BRONTË, *JANE EYRE* (1847)

<p>Tuesday 1/31: <i>Jane Eyre</i>, pp. 1-83</p>	<p>Essay Assigned</p>
<p>(No Class Thursday 2/2 while Dr. B. is at the Nineteenth Century Studies Association Conference in Charleston)</p>	
<p>Tuesday 2/7: <i>Jane Eyre</i>, pp. 83-181</p>	<p>Reading Quiz #3</p>
<p>Thursday 2/9: <i>Jane Eyre</i>, pp. 181-275</p>	

Tuesday 2/14: <i>Jane Eyre</i> , pp. 275-358	
Thursday 2/16: <i>Jane Eyre</i> , pp. 358-452 (end)	Reading Quiz #4

JOHN RUSKIN'S ESSAYS AND CRITICISM

Tuesday 2/23 JMW Turner, "The Slave Ship" (oil painting, 1840) – [Reader] John Ruskin, "The Slave Ship" (essay, 1843) – [Reader]	
Thursday 2/25 John Ruskin, "Landscape, Mimesis, and Morality: The Pathetic Fallacy" (1856) – [Reader] David Lodge, "Weather," from <i>The Art of Fiction</i> – [Reader]	Essay Due

EMILY BRONTË, *WUTHERING HEIGHTS* (1847)

Tuesday 2/28: <i>Wuthering Heights</i> , pp. 1-64	
Thursday 3/2: <i>Wuthering Heights</i> , pp. 64-150	Reading Quiz #5
Tuesday 3/7: <i>Wuthering Heights</i> , pp. 150-226	
Thursday 3/9: <i>Wuthering Heights</i> , pp. 226-300 (end)	Reading Quiz #6

SPRING BREAK BETWEEN WEEK 9 & 10

THOMAS HARDY, *FAR FROM THE MADDING CROWD* (1874)

Tuesday 3/21: <i>Far From the Madding Crowd</i> , pp. 1-94	Symposium Project Assigned
Thursday 3/23: <i>Far From the Madding Crowd</i> , pp. 94-205	Reading Quiz #7
Tuesday 3/28: <i>Far From the Madding Crowd</i> , pp. 205-303	
Thursday 3/30: <i>Far From the Madding Crowd</i> , pp. 303-389	Reading Quiz #8

HARDY'S WESSEX, THE FIRST CLIFFHANGER, AND MORE DINOSAURS**Tuesday 4/4**

Thomas Hardy, *A Pair of Blue Eyes* (Ch. 20-21) – [Reader]
May Kendall, “The Ballad of the Ichthyosaur” (1880s) – [Reader]
May Kendall, “The Lay of the Trilobite” – [Reader]

THE HUNT FOR THE NORTHWEST PASSAGE**Thursday 4/6**

Charles Dickens, “The Lost Arctic Voyagers” (1854) – [Reader]

Tuesday 4/11

Wilkie Collins, “The Frozen Deep” (1856/1860s) – [Reader]

Reading Quiz #9**TECHNOLOGY AND THE SEA****Thursday 4/13**

Rudyard Kipling, “Deep Sea Cables” – [Reader]

Tuesday 4/18

Phil Robinson, from *Fishes of Fancy* (1883) – [Reader]

**Symposium Project
Due****SYMPOSIUM****Thursday 4/20: SYMPOSIUM!****APOCALYPTIC BRITAIN****Tuesday 4/25**

Richard Jeffries, *After London; or, Wild England* (1885) – [Reader]

Reading Quiz #10**THURSDAY 4/27: CONCLUSIONS**