

The Victorian Novel English 4122/5122

Alan Rauch
 Room 290E Fretwell
 Telephone: 687-6158
 e-mail: arauch@uncc.edu
<http://www.uncc.edu/arauch>

SPRING 2004
 Fretwell 410 12:30-1:25

Office Hours: Tues.3:00-4:30; Wed.,10:00-Noon & by Appt.



In this course we will study the Victorian (1837-1901) form of the novel, a genre which was distinguished for its realism, for its approach to social and political issues, and for its detailed depiction of the subtleties of human action and interaction. Although the novel had existed for well over a century it was not until the 1800s when writers began to take it seriously as means to communicate issues of social significance. New innovations in transportation and publishing technologies made mass publishing possible and as literacy increased, many people turned to the novel for amusement and for interest.

The stunning popularity of Charles Dickens, whose 1860-61 work, Great Expectations, we will read, was due to the sensational power of the novel. One of the earliest novelists who will be addressed in the course is Jane Austen, whose “comedies of manners” helped set a tone for later writers including the Brontës (Charlotte, Emily and Anne), who will also figure prominently in the course. Reading will include commentary (both contemporary and current) about the novel, so that we can understand why and how the novel mattered. The later writers will include George Eliot, Thomas Hardy, and Joseph Conrad. (Conrad’s novel Nostramo, it is worth noting, was adapted for the movie, Alien)

Texts:

- Jane Austen. Northanger Abbey. ISBN 0141439793 Penguin
- Charles Dickens. Great Expectations. ISBN 0141439564 Penguin
- Elizabeth Gaskell. Cousin Phillis. ISBN 0140431047 Penguin
- George Eliot . The Mill on the Floss. ISBN 0141439629 Penguin
- Thomas Hardy. Jude the Obscure. ISBN 0140435387 | Penguin
- Joseph Conrad. Nostramo: A Tale of the Seaboard. ISBN 014018371X | Penguin
- George Gissing. The Odd Women. ISBN 0140433791 || Penguin
- David Newsome. The Victorian World Picture. Rutgers University Press; ISBN: 0813527589

RECOMMENDED:

Michael J. Hoffman, Patrick D. Murphy, Eds. Essentials of the Theory of Fiction, 2nd ed., Duke U. Press. ISBN 0-8223-1823-7

Grading & Assignments:

4122

Knowledge Topic & Class Presentation.....	10%
Discussion Topics.....	10%
Take Home Analytical Essays.....	20%
Paper 1.....	20%
Paper 2.....	30%
Class Participation.....	10%

5122

Knowledge Topic & Class Presentation.....	10%
Discussion Topics.....	10%
Take Home Analytical Essays.....	10%
Paper 1.....	25%
Paper 2.....	35%
Class Participation.....	10%

Attendance is, of course, required, but course participation involves more than just showing up. It requires you to keep up with the reading and writing assignments, as well as participating in workshops and class discussions. This course deals with theoretical issues as well as practical assignments, so what happens in class is CRITICAL.

If you’re having problems, talk to me! Don’t miss class because you’re a little late, but try NOT to be late. Bring your books to class and write marginal notes in your books!

Academic Integrity:

Every student is obliged to comply with UNC Charlotte’s code for “Academic Integrity.” First and foremost the policy states: “Students are also members of the academic community. As responsible members of the University, students are obligated not to violate the basic standards of integrity, and they are expected to take an active role in encouraging other members to respect those standards. Should a student suspect a violation of academic integrity, he/she should make the suspicion known to a member of the faculty or University administration.”

The full text of the code can be found at:

<http://www.legal.uncc.edu/policies/ps-105.html>

If you are uncertain about what plagiarism means or how to avoid it, talk to me!

