E 328 ● The English Novel in the Nineteenth Century

Instructor: Christian, George S.
Unique #: 83060
Semester: Summer 2010
Cross-lists: NA

Areas: III
Flags: NA
Restrictions: NA
Computer Instruction: NA

Prerequisites: Nine semester hours of coursework in English or rhetoric and writing.

Description: What is "Victorian" about the Victorian novel? What does the novel tell us about the way "Victorians" perceived themselves and their place in Britain, the British Empire, and the world? Is there a difference between the nineteenth-century "English" novel and its Scottish and Irish contemporaries? Among many other things, the Victorian novel concerned itself with questions of identity: national and imperial, economic and social, religious and gender. People accustomed to finding their predetermined place in the social order began to see themselves as part of larger groups with common interests: owners and workers, landlords and tenants, men and women, Whigs and Tories. In this class we will test Disraeli's famous characterization of Victorian Britain as "Two Nations," one wealthy and complacent, the other dispossessed and menacing, will be a starting point for examining the Victorian novel's quest to find a stable basis for personal and social identity in the midst of bewildering change.

Texts:

- Walter Scott, *Waverley*
- William Thackeray, *Vanity Fair*
- Charles Dickens, *Hard Times*
- Emily Brontë, *Wuthering Heights*
- George Eliot, *Middlemarch*
- Thomas Hardy, *Tess of the d'Urbervilles*

(available at the Co-op or on-line)

Requirements & Grading:

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- **Weekly reading**. Reading assignments for each class are given in the detailed syllabus below. Please come to class prepared to discuss the readings assigned for that class period.
- **Regular participation in class discussions**. Although there may be a few short lectures to provide relevant historical or cultural contexts for the reading, class discussion is the primary method of instruction and will be emphasized and encouraged.
- **Response Papers**. Each student will write a brief (500-word) response essay to be turned in each Friday during the term. The paper must discuss a topic or topic from the week's reading.
- **Exams**. There will be three take-home essay exams during the term. Each essay exam will cover two novels.
- **Mandatory attendance**. Attendance is mandatory. If you must miss a class, please let me know in advance, if possible. You will still be responsible for the reading and getting notes from another student on what you missed.

GRADING:

- Essay exams 75% (25% each)
- Weekly response essays and class participation 25%

Policies:

Documented Disability Statement: Students who require special accommodations should notify me at the beginning of the semester (or as soon as possible), and such accommodations will be made. Students requesting special accommodations should obtain a letter from the Services of Students with Disabilities (SSD) Office. To ensure that the most appropriate accommodations can be provided, students should contact the SSD office at 471-6259 or 471-4641.

Schedule:

June 3: Introduction

June 4: Walter Scott, *Waverley; Or, 'Tis Sixty Years Since*, General Preface (1829); Vol. 1, Chapters 1-23

June 7: Scott, Volume II, Chapters 1-16

June 8: Scott, Volume II, Chapters 17-24; Volume III, Chapters 1-8

June 9: Scott, Volume III, Chapters 9-25

June 10: William Makepeace Thackeray, *Vanity Fair*, Before the Curtain-Chapter 14

June 11: Thackeray, Chapters 15-28

June 14: Thackeray, Chapters 29-43

June 15: Thackeray, Chapters 44-57

June 16: Thackeray, Chapters 58-end

First essay exam distributed

June 17: Charles Dickens, *Hard Times*, Book 1

June 18: Dickens, Book 2

First essay exam due

June 21: Dickens, Book 3

June 22: Emily Brontë, *Wuthering Heights*, Chapters 1-7

June 23: Brontë, Chapters 8-14

June 24: Brontë, Chapters 15-25

June 25: Brontë, Chapters 26-34

Second essay exam distributed

June 28: George Eliot, *Middlemarch*, Book I

Second essay exam due

June 29: Eliot, Books II-III

June 30: Eliot, Books IV-V

July 1: Eliot, Books VI-VII

July 2: Eliot, Book VIII

July 5: Thomas Hardy, *Tess of the d'Urbervilles*, Chapters 1-20

July 6: Hardy, Chapters 21-34

July 7: Hardy, Chapters 35-48

July 8: Hardy, Chapters 49-59

Third essay exam distributed

July 11: ***Third essay exam due***

Web Site: None

Instructors:

Instructor:	George S. Christian
Office Hours:	Calhoun 6, MWF 2:30-4 or by appointment
Time:	MTWTHF 1-2:30
Location:	Parlin 306