

ENGL 442 A Special Period: Geographies of the Victorian Novel

Trimester 1 2016

29 February to 29 June 2016

30 Points

IMPORTANT DATES

Teaching dates: 29 February to 5 June 2016

Easter break: 24 to 30 March 2016

Mid-trimester break: 25 April to 1 May 2016

Last assessment item due: 3 June 2016

Withdrawal dates: Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds.

If you cannot complete an assignment in the last three weeks of teaching, it may instead be possible to apply for an aegrotat (refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats).

CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Monday	1.10 – 4.00pm	VZ802
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NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS

Adam Grener	Adam.Grener@vuw.ac.nz	463 6811	VZ915
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Office Hours: Tues 11:00am-12:00pm & 2:00pm-3:00pm

COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional information and any changes to the course schedule will be delivered through Blackboard.

If you are not going to use the Victoria email address set up for you, you should forward email from the Victoria email system to the email address you do use—you are responsible for all information delivered to you through Blackboard and Victoria email.

PRESCRIPTION

This course will explore how the novel represents and maps the rapidly changing landscape of Victorian Britain, from the unprecedented expansion of the British Empire and the explosion of urban environments,

to the increasing psychological investment in spaces like the home. We will aim to theorise the capacities of the novel to chart the connections between various spaces: the country and city, the colonies and metropole, the home and nation, and even the past and present. Readings will include novels by Dickens, Gaskell, Hardy, Haggard, and Stevenson, as well as short theoretical readings by Frederic Jameson, Mikhail Bakhtin, and Georg Lukacs.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES (CLOS)

Students who pass this course should be able to:

- (1) Analyse and discuss primary texts within relevant historical and theoretical contexts related to the representation of spaces in Victorian Britain;
- (2) Formulate and investigate research questions about the Victorian novel, using both primary and secondary sources;
- (3) Generate analytical interpretations and close readings of specific passages within primary texts and develop those readings into broader arguments about that text;
- (4) Demonstrate command of the protocols and practice of scholarly writing.

TEACHING FORMAT

This course is delivered in seminar format, with one 3-hour meeting per week. This means, more than anything, that the course will depend on the active and consistent engagement from all members of the seminar. You are expected to attend all the seminar meetings and to come prepared, having read all of the assigned material for that seminar and ready to participate in discussion. To facilitate discussion, I will identify particular passages or questions we may want to discuss prior to each meeting. Furthermore, each student will be responsible for one seminar presentation (approximately 20-30 minutes) that will be focused on a passage in the novel under consideration. Prior to your presentation, you will be responsible for distributing to the class: (1) the passage you wish to discuss; (2) a short (400-500 word) summary of what you think is important about your passage in the context of the novel or course as a whole; (3) two discussion questions that link your passage to other moments in the novel or broader ideas in the course. (See the Handout on Assessment Task for further information).

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

In addition to achieving an overall pass mark of 50%, students must:

1. Submit both essays and achieve at least a 40% mark on each (prior to any deductions for late submission) in order to demonstrate achievement of the CLOs.

2. Attend at least 9 of the 12 seminar meetings; seminars provide the opportunity to practice and master the skills of discussion, analysis, and interpretation that are central to the CLOs—regular attendance is therefore essential to meeting the CLOs.

Any student who is concerned that they have been (or might be) unable to meet any of the MCRs because of exceptional personal circumstances should contact the course coordinator as soon as possible.

WORKLOAD

The expected workload for a 30-point course is 300 hours over the trimester (20 hours per teaching week).

ASSESSMENT

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	Passage Analysis and Seminar Presentation (1,500 words)	15%	1,3,4	variable
2	Essay (2,500 words)	25%	1,3,4	April 22 nd
3	Research Essay Proposal and Bibliography (500 words)	5%	1,2,3,4	May 6 th
4	Annotated Bibliography (1,500 words)	15%	1,2,3,4	May 21 st
5	Research Essay (4,000 words)	40%	1,2,3,4	June 3 rd

A more detailed description of each of the assignments will be provided in the first seminar and will be available on Blackboard. Rubrics for the assignments will also be made available on Blackboard.

Please note: Marks for Honours level assignments and final course grades are not finalised until feedback from the external examiner has been considered. Honours grades gained in individual courses remain provisional until the overall final classification made by the Honours programme examination committee.

SUBMISSION AND RETURN OF WORK

Each assignment is submitted in two formats:

- A hardcopy in the drop slot outside the administration office. Attach an assignment cover sheet or extension form to your assignment, found on Blackboard or outside the administration office. Please following the “Formatting Guidelines for Assessed Work” on Blackboard.
- Email your assignment as a MS Word file to english@vuw.ac.nz

Your marked assignment will be handed back by the course coordinator. Any uncollected assignments can be picked up from the Programme Administrator after the last day of teaching. Assignments will be held in

the administration office until the end of the following trimester. You need to show your student identification to collect marked assignment from the administration office.

EXTENSIONS AND PENALTIES

Extensions

In exceptional and unforeseen circumstances an extension may be granted. To apply for an extension, you must email the Course Coordinator at least 24 hours before the assignment is due. If granted, your Course Coordinator will inform you of the new due date. Seminar presentations will be scheduled in the second seminar and will not be rescheduled; if you do not complete the seminar presentation (and submit the passage analysis) on the assigned date of delivery you will not earn any credit for that item of assessment.

No assignment with or without an extension will be accepted after Wednesday 29 June 2016

Penalties

Work submitted after the deadline will be penalised by a 2.5 mark deduction from your total mark per work day. Late work also receives only minimal comments from your marker.

SET TEXTS

Dickens, Charles. *Dombey and Son*. Penguin (Classics).

Doyle, Arthur Conan. *The Sign of Four*. Penguin (Classics).

Gaskell, Elizabeth. *North and South*. Penguin (Classics).

Haggard, H Rider. *King Solomon's Mines*. Penguin (Classics).

Hardy, Thomas. *The Return of the Native*. Penguin (Classics).

Stevenson, Robert Louis. *Treasure Island and The Ebb-Tide*. Penguin.

Order textbooks online at www.vicbooks.co.nz; enquiries can be made to enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz.

Additional readings will be delivered through Blackboard or accessible through the library.

RECOMMENDED READING

Bibliographies for individual texts and broader course concepts will be posted on Blackboard—readings from these bibliographies are not required, but I do recommend that you read at least one piece of secondary criticism for each text (from the bibliography or something else you find). You can also get in touch with me if you would like direction in pursuing particular questions or issues that interest you.

CLASS REPRESENTATIVE

The class representative provides a useful way to communicate feedback to the teaching staff during the course. A class representative will be selected at the first lecture of the course. Students may like to write the Class Rep's name and details in this box:

Class Rep name and contact details:

STUDENT FEEDBACK

Student feedback on courses may be found at www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php. Since this particular course has not been offered before, no relevant feedback exists. However, I welcome feedback as the course unfolds and am eager to make adjustments to our format and class practices to enhance learning and engagement. I encourage you to contact or meet with me in office hours to discuss the course material and delivery.

In week six or seven of the trimester your class representative will be invited to a meeting with the Programme staff. In week five your class representative will ask the class for any feedback on this course to discuss at this meeting.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades
- Special passes: refer to the *Assessment Handbook*, at www.victoria.ac.nz/documents/policy/staff-policy/assessment-handbook.pdf
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian>

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- Terms and conditions: www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure
- Victoria graduate profile: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz

Course Programme

Week 1	29 Feb	Class Intro—Maps! Dickens, <i>Dombey and Son</i> , Chapters 1-4
Week 2	7 March	Dickens, <i>Dombey and Son</i> , Chapters 5-19 Raymond Williams, “Knowable Communities” <i>The Country and the City</i>
Week 3	14 March	Dickens, <i>Dombey and Son</i> , Chapters 20-41 Frederic Jameson, selection from <i>The Political Unconscious</i> Garrett Stewart, “The Foreign Offices of British Fiction”, <i>Modern Language Quarterly</i> , 61.1 (2000)
Week 4	21 March	Dickens, <i>Dombey and Son</i> , Chapters 42-62
Easter Break:		Thursday 24 to Wednesday 30 March 2016
Week 5	4 April	Gaskell, <i>North and South</i> , Chapters 1-27 Bakhtin, selection from “The Bildungsroman and Its Significance...”
Week 6	11 April	Gaskell, <i>North and South</i> , Chapters 28-52 Rossetti, “Goblin Market”
Week 7	18 April	Hardy, <i>The Return of the Native</i> , Books First, Second, and Third J Hillis Miller, “Topography of <i>The Return of the Native</i> ,” <i>Essays in Literature</i> 8.2 (1981) Essay due Friday, April 22nd (via Blackboard)
Mid-trimester Break:		Monday 25 April to Sunday 1 May
Week 8	2 May	Hardy, <i>The Return of the Native</i> , Books Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth John Barrell, “Geographies of Hardy’s Wessex,” <i>Journal of Historical Geography</i> 8.4 (1982) Research Essay Proposal due Friday, May 6th (via Blackboard)
Week 9	9 May	Haggard, <i>King Solomon’s Mines</i> , Chapters 1-14
Week 10	16 May	Haggard, <i>King Solomon’s Mines</i> , Chapters 15-20

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Stevenson, *The Ebb-Tide*, Part I "The Trio"

Annotated Bibliography due Friday, May 20th (via Blackboard)

Week 11	23 May	Stevenson, <i>The Ebb-Tide</i> , Part II "The Quartette" Abbott, <i>Flatland</i> (library website)
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Week 12	30 May	Doyle, <i>The Sign of Four</i>
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Research Essay due Friday, June 3rd (via Blackboard)