

History 3140: Victorian Britain

Professor Nadja Durbach

TH: 9:10-10:30am

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This course investigates some of the major social and cultural developments in Britain between the Industrial Revolution and the introduction of immigration legislation in 1905. Using the analytical categories of gender, race, and class, this course explores the themes of home and family, industrialization and urbanization, the rise of the Victorian state, the relationship between the nation and the empire, the tensions between science and religion, and the anxieties around sexuality and the body.

Course Objectives:

At the end of this course, the student will be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the events and ideas that shaped nineteenth-century British society and culture.
- Construct and articulate in written and oral form historical arguments about the nature of Victorian values, beliefs, and social policies.
- Analyze historical documents effectively.

Teaching Methods and Required Reading:

This course is divided between lectures and class discussions. You are expected to **attend all the lectures** and to **participate in discussion**. If you are shy or an introvert, please make an appointment to see me so that I can help you strategize about participating in a way that is comfortable for you and enhances your learning experience without causing undue stress.

On days identified on the syllabus as having a **Reading Assignment**, you will be responsible for the assigned reading in advance. Please read the material thoroughly and whenever possible bring it with you to class.

The following books are available to purchase in the bookstore. Please buy them early as unpurchased copies are returned to the publisher after 5 weeks:

Olaudah Equiano, *The Life of Olaudah Equiano*
Friederich Engels, *The Condition of the Working Class in England*
Bram Stoker, *Dracula*

Additional required readings are available on **CANVAS**, which can be accessed through your CIS account. There is a **MODULE** for each section of the course and the readings can be found by clicking on the **Modules** button on the left hand side of the screen. Please print or download these readings and bring them with you to class. Please notify me if anything has been scanned incorrectly.

Assignments and Grading Policy:

Grades will be based on:

- Class participation includes **attendance** and **participation** in class discussions. (15%)
- 3 **papers** of 4-5 pages each. Specific guidelines will be handed out in class. (3 x 20%)
- A **final exam** (25%)

FINAL EXAM WILL BE HELD IN THE CLASSROOM:

I use the following grading scale:

A=95-100% A-= 90-94% B+=85-89% B=80-84% B-=75-79% C+=70-74% C=65-69%
C-=60-64% D=55-59% D-=51-54% F=50% or below

All written assignments are due as indicated via **CANVAS upload**. I will take one grade off for each day late. Thus a B+ paper becomes a B paper if it is one day late.

Plagiarism and Classroom Policies:

Please familiarize yourself with the **University's Student Code** that can be found online at: www.saff.utah.edu/code.html. This code outlines your rights and responsibilities.

I will not tolerate any form of **plagiarism**. If I discover that you have plagiarized or misrepresented your work to me in any way, I reserve my right to fail you for the course. I am also required to have the case entered into the University's Academic Misconduct Database. The American Historical Association's statement on plagiarism can be found at:

<http://www.historians.org/pubs/free/ProfessionalStandards.cfm#Plagiarism>

Please turn your **mobile phone** off before entering the classroom. Do not **text** under the desk; it is rude.

Please do not **surf the net** during class time. Computers and other mobile devices should be used for taking notes only.

Please do your best to **arrive on time**. If you need to leave before the end of the class period, please let me know in advance and sit near the door.

I do not circulate my **notes** to students. If you **miss a class**, please ask a classmate to borrow notes.

Occasionally I may need to contact you via **email**. I will do this through the CIS system, which uses your Umail account. Please make sure that you check this account regularly or that you forward it to the email address that you use most often.

My **office hours** are by appointment so that I can accommodate your busy schedules. If you would like to meet with me, please email me with your preferred times or consult me before or after class to find a time that works for both of us.

Accommodations:

Some of the readings, lectures, films, or presentations in this course may include material that may conflict with the core beliefs of some students. Please review the syllabus carefully to see if the course is one that you are committed to taking. If you have a concern, please discuss it with me at your earliest convenience. For more information, please consult the University of Utah's Accommodations Policy: www.admin.utah.edu/facdev/accommodations-policy.pdf.

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All written information in this course can be made available in alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.

Schedule of Lectures and Discussion:

Introduction:

August 22 Introduction: Nineteenth-Century Britain: An Overview

Industry and Slavery:

August 24 Lecture: Slavery and its Abolition
August 29 Reading Assignment:
Olaudah Equiano, *The Life of Olaudah Equiano*

August 31 Lecture: The Industrial Revolution
September 5 Reading Assignment:
Friederich Engels, *The Condition of the Working Class in England*: read the chapters entitled: "The Industrial Proletariat," "The Great Towns," "The Results of Industrialization," "The Attitude of the Bourgeoisie"

The Age of Reform:

September 7 Lecture: Parliamentary Reform and Chartism
Reading Assignment (also for September 7):
Thomas Babington Macaulay, "Parliamentary Reform"
"The People's Charter"

September 12 Lecture: Crime, Policing, and Social Order
September 14 Lecture: The New Poor Law and The Anatomy Act
September 19 Lecture: Cholera, Medicine, and Public Health
September 21 Reading Assignment:
Professor Michael Faraday, "Observations on the Filth of the Thames," *Times of London* (July 7, 1855)
Edwin Chadwick, excerpt from *Report of the Sanitary Conditions of the Labouring Population*
Henry Mayhew, "The Separate System" & "The Silent Associated System"
Poor Law Consolidated General Order 1847: "Admission of Paupers," "Classification of Paupers," "Discipline and Diet of the Paupers," "Punishments for Misbehaviour of the Paupers"

Ireland:

September 26 Lecture: The Irish Famine
September 28 Lecture: Irish Nationalism
October 3 Reading Assignment:
Charles Trevelyan, excerpt from *The Irish Crisis*
Letter to the *Times* on the Irish Famine
Daniel O'Connell, "Justice for Ireland"
John Garwood, "The Irish of London"

The Family and the Home:

October 5 Lecture: Domesticity, Respectability, and the Separation of Spheres

October 8-15 NO CLASS – FALL BREAK

October 17 Lecture: The Victorian Middle-Class Family

October 19 Lecture: Working-Class Homes and Families

October 24 Reading Assignment:

Cassell's Household Guide: "Parent and Child," & "Husband and Wife"

Isabella Beeton, *The Book of Household Management*, Chapter 1

George Sims, *How the Poor Live*

Science and Religion:

October 26 Lecture: Darwinism

Reading Assignment (also for October 26): Charles Darwin, excerpt from *The Descent of Man*

October 31 Lecture: Victorian Christianity and Religious Alternatives

Empire and Imperial Society:

November 2 Lecture: Colonizing India and Africa

November 7 Lecture: Colonial Bodies and the Cultural Politics of Empire

November 9 Reading Assignment:

Queen Victoria, Proclamation 1858

Charles Dickens, "The Noble Savage"

F.D. Lugard, *The Rise of Our East African Empire*

The Victorian City:

November 14 Lecture: New Urban Spaces

November 16 Lecture: Shopping and Slumming

November 21 Reading Assignment:

Beatrice Potter, excerpt from *Pages from a Work Girl's Diary*

Articles on Ladies' Shopping, shoplifting, pawnbrokers, and department stores

Henry Mayhew, "Crossing Sweepers" and "Juvenile Crossing Sweepers"

Booth maps (I will bring these to class)

November 23 NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING BREAK

The Age of Anxiety:

November 28 Lecture: Women's Rights

November 30 Lecture: Victorian Sexuality

December 5 Lecture: Immigration, Eugenics, and Degeneration

December 7 Reading Assignment: Bram Stoker, *Dracula*