



# VICTORIAN LITERATURE

## ENGL 3215

ALAN RAUCH, Fretwell 290L [Office Hours: M-W 3:30-5:00, & by appointment]  
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MW 11:00AM-12:15PM

The Victorian period is best known for the 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 modern form of 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. The stunning popularity of Charles Dickens, whose 1860-61 work, *Great Expectations*, which we will read, was due to the sensational power of the novel. The period is noted for great women novelists as well, thus we'll look at Elizabeth Gaskell and George Eliot, both of whom addressed political reform and social change. Readings will include criticism (both contemporary and current) Victorian literature and culture. In this course we will explore the broad scope of literature from the Victorian (1837-1901) period. Our readings will include poets such as the Brownings (Elizabeth and Robert), as well as Tennyson and Swinburne. We will also consider some important scientific texts, such as Charles Darwin's *Origin of Species*, that have had great literary merit and important cultural implications.

### TEXTS:

- Lewis Carroll. 1865. *Alice in Wonderland*. W.W. Norton. ISBN-10: 0393932346
- Charles Dickens. 1860-61. *Great Expectations*. Penguin ISBN--10: 0141439564
- George Eliot. 1861. *Silas Marner*. Penguin. ISBN 9780141439754
- Elizabeth Gaskell. 1848. *Mary Barton*. W. W. Norton. ISBN-13: 978-0393930634
- Thomas Hardy. 1891-92. *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*. Penguin. ISBN--10: 0141439599
- Judith Flanders. *The Victorian City: Everyday Life in Dickens' London*. St. Martins. ISBN-10: 1250068266
- Daniel Karlin, Ed. *The Penguin Book of Victorian Verse*. Penguin. ISBN 9780140445787 928

### ASSIGNMENTS:

There will be 3 papers. The first will be a brief "close" reading of about 2 pages, the second will be about 5-7 pages and the third--more research driven--will be about 7-10. In addition, every student will be required to develop a BRIEF presentation on an artist, a writer, a style, a genre, a cultural movement, or any other appropriate topic. We will also have "spot" quizzes on the reading materials and class content. You will also have to conduct research in the London Times and write a 1-page report.

Close Reading.....	10%
Paper 1.....	15%
Paper 2.....	25%
<i>London Times</i> .....	10%
Presentation.....	10%
Quizzes.....	20%
Participation.....	10%

### ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

**Plagiarism** of ANY kind is not only an intellectual offense, but it is a breach of contract with your fellow students and your instructor. It is also a violation of University Policy! If you have ANY questions about plagiarism, the citation of external sources, copyright violation, or academic writing practices in general, please contact me.

