

TRINITY WESTERN UNIVERSITY

COURSE SYLLABUS

ENGLISH 573: Victorian Poetry and Prose

Instructor: S. Pearson

Semester: Fall 2007

Prerequisite: Admission to the MAIH program

Credit: 3 s.h.

Office: LSNC # 7

Course Description:

Explores the poetry and non-fictional prose of significant British literary figures from 1830-1900, a period of controversial and divergent thought. Pays particular attention to how the literature of this period reflects its society's preoccupation with politics, history, religion, education, art, and the "woman question."

Course Objectives:

1. To grow in the knowledge of God, others, and self as we experience these creative works.
2. To consider the relationship of literature and culture in a period of social change in Victorian Britain.
3. To become aware of the continuing legacy and influence of the literature created by Christian writers during this time.
4. To become familiar with the most significant contemporary critical and theoretical responses to the works of one Victorian prose writer and one Victorian poet.
5. To learn and develop the skills necessary for writing an essay aimed at a scholarly audience.

Required Readings:

Arnold, Matthew, selected poems, *Culture and Anarchy*

Brontë, Emily, selected poems

Browning, Elizabeth Barrett, selected poems

Browning, Robert, selected poems

Carlyle, Thomas, "The Signs of the Times"; *Sartor Resartus* (selections), *On Heroes* (selections), *Past and Present* (selections)

Darwin, Charles, *The Origin of the Species* (selections), *The Descent of Man* (selections)

Hopkins, Gerard Manley, selected poems

Huxley Thomas Henry, *Science and Culture* (selections), *Agnosticism and Christianity* (selections)

Macaulay, Thomas Babington, "State of England in 1685"

Mill, John Stuart, *Autobiography* (selections), *On Liberty* (selections), *On the Subjection of Women* (selections), *Three Essays on Religion* (selections)

Morris, William, selected poems

Newman, John Henry, *Idea of a University* (selections), *Apologia Pro Vita Sua* (selections)

Pater, Walter, *The Renaissance*(selections)

Rossetti, Christina, selected poems

Rossetti, Dante Gabriel, selected poems

Ruskin, John, "Of Queen's Gardens," *The Stones of Venice* (selections), *Unto this Last*

(selections), *Modern Painters* (selections)
Swinburne, Algernon Charles, selected poems
Tennyson, Alfred, Lord, selected poems
Thompson, Francis, "The Hound of Heaven"
Wilde, Oscar, *De Profundis*

Additional readings for MA students:

For the student's chosen *prose* author, the student will read the entire text(s) of the author rather than only the selections assigned to the undergraduate students.

For the student's chosen *poetry* author, the student will read 4-5 additional poems assigned by the instructor, or will read a longer poetic work in its entirety (e.g., Elizabeth Barrett Browning's epic poem, *Aurora Leigh*).

Course Requirements:

1. *Response Papers* (25%): The student will write five short response papers for five of the cultural topics we will cover in class (politics, history, religion, education, art, role of women). The student will choose one author for each topic. The student will be called upon to share his or her insights with the class, and with the professor in meetings outside the classroom.

2. *Annotated Bibliography*: (15%) The student will produce an annotated bibliography for the prose and poetry authors he or she has chosen, citing at least seven secondary sources for each author. This bibliography will be a resource for the major research essay.

3. *Oral Presentation* (10%): The student will present to the class the critical approach of one scholar from the annotated bibliography, offering his or her own critical response to the scholar's interpretation.

4. *Major Research Essay* (50%): In the research essay (4500-6000 words, 15-20 pages), the student will pursue a topic chosen in consultation with the instructor, with the goal of producing an article-length essay.

Course Evaluation:

All course requirements must be completed in order to pass the course.

Determination of Final Semester Grade:

Response Papers	25%
Annotated Bibliography	15%
Class Presentation	10%
Major Research Essay	<u>50%</u>
Total:	100%

System of Grading:

This course will use the university-wide system of percentage equivalents for determining grades (see pages 33-34 of the 2006-2007 Academic Calendar).