

HACETTEPE UNIVERSITY
FACULTY OF LETTERS
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

Syllabus

Title of the Course: IED 387 (02) British Novel II (Victorian Fiction)

Instructor: Prof. Dr. Serpil OPPERMANN

Year and Term: 2015 Fall

Class Hours and Rooms: Tuesday 13:00-15:50 ZNG

Aim and Content: This course focuses on the socio-political circumstances and ecological challenges that helped shape the Victorian novel. The novels published during the long reign of Queen Victoria generally reflect the widespread changes in society at that time, realistically describing the technological, social, and environmental transformations. One of major environmental problems, for example, was pollution as an end result of the Industrial Revolution. Victorian novels commented on, and criticized, the way the Industrial Revolution had produced ecological challenges and strict class divisions that affected people, especially the lower classes who were the most exposed to these problems. Topics of discussion in class will include environmental and social consequences of unregulated factories, large populations, and close city dwelling, living conditions of the working people, individuals' identities in relation to societal and moral issues, women's issues, middle class conventional values, and utilitarianism.

Novels to be studied:

Charles Dickens- *Hard Times*

George Eliot- *The Mill on the Floss*

Emily Brontë- *Wuthering Heights*

Thomas Hardy- *The Return of the Native*

Useful Website :

<http://victorianresearch.org/>

Course Outline:

Week I - II: Introduction to the social and cultural background of Victorian England.

Week III- IV: *Hard Times* (Social and Environmental problems)

Week V-VI: *The Mill on the Floss* (Morality, middle class values)

Week VII: Midterm I

Week VIII-IX: *Wuthering Heights*

Week X-XII: *The Return of the Native*

Week XIV: Midterm II (Optional)

Topics for Discussion:

Utilitarianism

High Church: Tractarianism

Chartism

Corn Laws

Reform Acts

Darwinism

Social Novel

Reading Material:

Allen MacDuffie- *Victorian Literature, Energy, and the Ecological Imagination*

- Agnes Kneitz- “ ‘As If the River Was Not Meat and Drink to You!’ ”: Social Novels as a Means of Framing Nineteenth-Century Environmental Justice.” *ISLE: Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment* (2015): 1–16.
- Joseph Carroll- “The Cuckoo’s History: Human Nature in *Wuthering Heights*.” *Philosophy and Literature* 32 (2008):241–257.
- Joseph Carroll. “The Ecology of Victorian Fiction.” *Philosophy and Literature* 25 (2001): 295-313.
- Timothy Cooper. “Peter Lund Simmons and the Political Ecology of Waste Utilization in Victorian Britain.” *Technology and Culture* 52.1 (2011): 21-44.
- Barri J. Gold. “Energy’ Ecology, and Victorian Fiction.” *Literature Compass* 9.2 (2012): 213–224.
- Barbara T. Gates. “Greening Victorian Studies.” *Victorian Review* 36.2 (Fall 2010): 11-14.
- John Parham. “Dickens in the City: Science, Technology, Ecology in the Novels of Charles Dickens.” See at academia.edu
- Dennis Denisoff. “Fluid Margins: Natural Environments in Victorian Culture.” *Victorian Review* 36.2 (Fall 2010): 7-10.
- Tina Young Choi. “Forms of Closure: The First Law of Thermodynamics and Victorian Narrative.” *ELH* 74.2 (Summer 2007): 301-322.

Method of Instruction: This is an Interactive class with lectures and student discussions on specific topics from the novels.

Course Requirements: Course requirements include active participation in class and the timely completion of all assigned readings. Attendance is obligatory. More than 11 hours of absence will result in F1.

Assessment: There will be ONE Midterm exam (50%) and another One for those who request it, and a Final Exam (50%). For a bonus of 10%. students can give presentations.

The passing grade in the Final is 50.

In grading the exam papers 25% of the total mark will be taken off for grammatical mistakes and writing errors.