STUDIES IN VICTORIAN LITERATURE: Age of Dickens (1840-1870)
ENG 436/536
4 Credits
No Prerequisites

Rational for conversion: The conversion will give students greater opportunity to practice critical thinking and writing about the Victorian Era by requiring students to read an additional novel or major work (approximately 250-350 pp.) and by increasing the length and complexity of writing assignments as well as raising research expectations.

The four credit version will:
• add a novel or major work;
• add instruction in research appropriate to the use of digital and print resources for advanced study in the Age of Dickens;
• increase the length and complexity of writing assignment to incorporate digital sources.
The core syllabus is the three credit version most recently taught.

Course Description:
Fiction, poetry, and nonfiction prose of the Victorian era. Topics change from term to term; see Schedule of Classes. May be repeated for a maximum of 9 credits.

Age of Dickens: 1840-1870: This course focuses on the literature of the Victorian era during its prime. We will discuss the major social issues of the years between 1840 and 1870 and investigate the ways such authors as Dickens, Tennyson, Arnold, Browning, Gaskell, Ruskin, Mill, and Carlyle addressed these contemporary concerns in their works. We will pay particular attention to the Victorian writers' interest in social and political reform as a response to England's being the first industrial nation in the world.

Learning Outcomes for 436:
* Identify key authors and texts of the early Victorian period.
* Account for and explain the literary and cultural milieu of Britain in the wake of the Industrial Revolution.
* Demonstrate highly developed critical reading, thinking, and writing skills necessary for advanced work in the Humanities.

Additional Learning Outcomes for 536:
* Demonstrate highly developed research skills in writing critical essays pertaining to the Victorian era.
* Assess and enter the current critical conversation about one or more major Victorian texts.

ENG 436 Course Requirements: Class attendance and participation, midterm (30%), final (20%), one brief class report (10%), and one 8-10 page essay on one of the readings and its relation to some larger issue of Victorian culture; this essay must incorporate at least three outside sources (40%). [The essay assignment reflects an increase in the length of the paper and requires two additional secondary sources.]

ENG 536: Class attendance and participation, midterm (30%), final (30%), 10-15-minute class presentation (10%), and one 10-12 page essay incorporating at least four outside sources and addressing a contemporary critical issue related to the period (30%). %]
assignment reflects an increase in the length of the paper and requires two additional secondary sources.]

Statement Regarding Disability Access Services:
Accommodations are collaborative efforts between students, faculty, and Disability Access Services (DAS). Students with accommodations approved through DAS are responsible for contacting the faculty member in charge of the course prior to or during the first week of the term to discuss accommodations. Students who believe they are eligible for accommodations but who have not yet obtained approval through DAS should contact DAS immediately at 737-4098.

Link to Statement of Expectations for Student Conduct: Please familiarize yourself with the University’s Statement of Expectations for Student Conduct available at the following address: http://oregonstate.edu/admin/stucon/achon.htm

Syllabus:
Week One
Introduction
Trilling & Bloom, pp. 3-13; Elizabeth Barrett (Browning), "The Cry of the Children" (1843)--handout with syllabus.

Week Two
Thomas Carlyle (T&B), pp. 13-16; Carlyle, from Past and Present (1843), pp. 52-71; on John Stuart Mill, pp. 72-75.
Dickens, Hard Times (1854), Book 1, pp. 9-111.

Week Three
Hard Times, Book 2, pp. 115-219.

Week Four
Victorian Visual Art (T&B), insert beginning p. 400

Week Five
Mid-Term Exam

Week Six

Week Seven

Week Eight
Christina Rossetti (T&B), pp. 640-643.
John Ruskin (T&B), from Modern Painters (1856) and The Stones of Venice (1851), pp. 154-189.

Week Nine
Elizabth Gaskell, Cousin Phillis (1863), 219-317.

Week Ten [Edwin Drood reflects an addition of a 250-page novel to course requirements]
Dore & Jerrold, London: A Pilgrimage (1872) Essays Due

-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------
