ENGLISH 336 11J: The Nineteenth Century British Novel

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Office Hours: MW 10-11:30, T 4-5:30 and by appointment

Course Description: In this course, we will be considering the novel as a lens through which Victorian novelists examined the basic structure and values of English society. Through a study of novels from Austen to Conrad, we will consider the gradual emergence of social criticism in the novel, and examine recent critical theory on the relationship between the classic Victorian novel and the growth of Empire in the nineteenth century.

Texts:

Austen Pride and Prejudice
Emily Bronte Wuthering Heights
Charles Dickens David Copperfield
W. M. Thackeray Vanity Fair
Wilkie Collins The Moonstone
Joseph Conrad Heart of Darkness

Course Requirements:
1) Reading: you will be asked to read approximately 200 pages a week; in addition, there will be some secondary readings in Victorian nonfiction and critical theory.
2) Weekly reading responses, 1-2 pages, due every Tuesday.
3) Midterm takehome exam
4) One formal research paper
5) Occasional classroom exercises, quizzes
6) final exam

Policies:

Attendance: You should be present for every class and prepared to participate. If you are absent, you are responsible for informing yourself about any missed assignments or announcements, and for material covered during that class. All absences should be for good reason; however, you may miss two classes without explanation. I will lower your grade for every unexcused absence after these two. Excessive absences (more than five) may be cause for dropping you from the class.

Class Participation: This will count for 20% of your grade. For full credit, you will need to attend every class ready to participate. This means not just responding when called on, but coming to class with questions from the reading and topics for discussion, responding
to other students’ comments on the text, and taking active responsibility for the liveliness and pertinence of discussion.

Plagiarism: In this course, as in all other courses, you are bound by the Honor Code. Therefore, the work you submit for this class must be your own. If you use any outside sources in your writing for this course, you must acknowledge them by using the MLA system of documentation, which is presented in detail in *The Bedford Handbook*. **All Websites or other Internet sources must be acknowledged and documented.** If you have any questions regarding the Honor Code as it applies to this course, please consult me or pages 94-97 of the Oxford College catalog.

Grade breakdown:

- Weekly responses: 30%
- Midterm: 10%
- Research Paper: 20%
- Class Participation: 20%
- Final Exam: 20%

All grades for this course will be recorded using the plus/minus scale described on page 32 of the Oxford College catalog.

**Tentative Outline of Topics to be covered:**

- Aug 27: Introduction and Objectives
- Sept 1-3: Pride and Prejudice
- Labor Day
- Sept 8- Sept 10: Pride and Prejudice
- Sept 15-17: Pride and Prejudice; start Wuthering Heights
- Sept 22-24, 29: Wuthering Heights
- Oct 1st: David Copperfield
- Oct 6-8: David Copperfield
- Oct 12-13: Fall Break
- Oct 15: David Copperfield
- Oct 20: Takehome Midterm due; start Vanity Fair
Oct 22-29   Vanity Fair

Nov 3-Nov 10  Vanity Fair
Nov 5   Proposal for research paper due

Nov 17   The Moonstone Complete first version of research paper due/peer reviews organized

Nov 12, 19, 24   The Moonstone

Nov 25-27   Thanksgiving Break

Dec 1  Research paper with first version and peer reviews due
       Heart of Darkness
Dec 3, 8   Heart of Darkness

Final Exam Thursday, December 10, 9-12AM