

Seminar in the Victorian Period (6305):
Browning and His Contemporaries
CRN 26700
Spring 2013
Irby 310
MW 6-7:15

Dr. Fowler
Office: Irby 412
Hours: MWF 1-2; 3-4
T Th 12:30-1:30; 3-4
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Texts: *The Norton Anthology of English Literature: The Victorian Age* (Ninth ed., Vol. E)
Robert Browning's Poetry (Norton second ed., Ed. Loucks and Stauffer)
MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers (Seventh ed.)

Course Description: As stated in the *Graduate Bulletin*, this course offers “[c]oncentrated study of a special topic in English literature of the Victorian period.” This incarnation of the course will involve an advanced survey of the period, using selected poems by Robert Browning as a kind of hub. In thematic terms it will consist of six topic-oriented sections, more or less discrete but ultimately interrelated. Hence, we will cycle repeatedly through the period, examining it from different perspectives.

Course Objectives: Students should have a comprehensive grasp of the cultural arc of this energetic, contentious period by semester’s end. We will be scrutinizing the stereotypes and biases that have accumulated around this era in an effort to arrive at an informed, balanced view of its achievements and shortcomings. A benefit of this course is that we will be covering a number of the Victorian works on the MA Reading List. To that end, students are strongly advised to read all the selections on the list—including whole works such as *Sartor Resartus* and *In Memoriam*—as we discuss each Victorian author in turn.

Course Outline:

1/14	Intro to the Victorian Age: The Early Period	1017-23
	Headnote to “Robert Browning”	1275-78

Industrial Capitalism

1/16	Introduction: “Prose”	1040-41
	“Industrialism: Progress or Decline?”	1580-81
	Carlyle* from <i>Past and Present</i> : “Captains of Industry”	1072-76
	Engels from <i>The Great Towns</i>	1590-97
	Dickens from <i>Hard Times</i> : “Coketown”	1599-1600
1/23	from <i>First Report of the Commissioners, Mines</i>	1587-89
	Introduction: “Poetry”	1037-40
	E. B. Browning “The Cry of the Children”	1124-28
	R. Browning “The Pied Piper of Hamelin”	Loucks 103-10

- 1/28 Intro to the Mid-Victorian Period 1024-28
 Ruskin from *The Stones of Venice*: “The Savageness of Gothic Architecture” 1342-52
 R. Browning “The Bishop Orders His Tomb . . .” Loucks 126-30
- 1/30 C. Rossetti “Goblin Market” 1496-1508
- 2/4 Intro to the Late Period, the Nineties 1028-31
 Morris “How I Became a Socialist” 1522-25

Past and Present

- 2/6 Tennyson “Ulysses” 1170-72
 R. Browning “Cleon” Loucks 254-62
- 2/11 R. Browning ““Imperante Augusto Natus Est–”” Loucks 478-82
 (Supplementary Browning poem: “Karshish” Loucks 174-80)
- 2/13 Tennyson “The Lady of Shalott” 1161-66
 R. Browning “Fra Lippo Lippi” Loucks 148-57
 (Supplementary Browning poem: “Andrea del Sarto” Loucks 236-42)
- 2/18 [Midterm Exam]

The Woman Question

- 2/20 Introduction: “The Role of Women” 1031-34
 “The ‘Woman Question’: The Victorian Debate about Gender” 1607-10
 Mill from *The Subjection of Women* 1105-15
- 2/25 Patmore from *The Angel in the House* 1613-14
 Ruskin from “Of Queens’ Gardens” 1615-16
 R. Browning “Porphyria’s Lover” Loucks 101-03
 “My Last Duchess” Loucks 83-84
- 2/27 Tennyson from *The Princess*: “The Woman’s Cause Is Man’s” 1229-30
 E. B. Browning *Aurora Leigh*: from Book 1 1138-43
- 3/4 E. B. Browning *Aurora Leigh*: from Books 2, 5 1144-52
 R. Browning “The Last Ride Together” Loucks 201-04
 (Supplementary Browning poems: “Love among the Ruins” Loucks 137-39;
 “Two in the Campagna” Loucks 264-66)

Religion: Belief and Unbelief

- 3/6 Carlyle from *Sartor Resartus*: “The Everlasting No,” “Centre of Indifference,” “The Everlasting Yea” 1048-67
- 3/11 R. Browning “Childe Roland to the Dark Tower Came” Loucks 181-88
(Supplementary Browning poems: “Soliloquy of the Spanish Cloister”
Loucks 89-92; “Johannes Agricola in Meditation” Loucks 100-01)
- 3/13 Tennyson *In Memoriam*: sections 3, 6, 7, 14, 27, 34, 47, 48, 50
- 3/25 Arnold “Dover Beach” 1387-88
“Stanzas from the Grande Chartreuse” 1388-94
- 3/27 Swinburne “Hymn to Proserpine” 1526-29
T. H. Huxley from “Agnosticism and Christianity” 1458-62
- 4/1 R. Browning “Rabbi Ben Ezra” Loucks 286-92
“Fears and Scruples” Loucks 457-58
- Hopkins “God’s Grandeur” 1548
“Duns Scotus’s Oxford” 1552-53
“I Wake and Feel the Fell of Dark, Not Day” 1555
“Thou Art Indeed Just, Lord” 1556-57
(Supplementary Browning poems: “Abt Vogler” Loucks 283-86;
“Epilogue” Loucks 309-12)

Science and Culture

- 4/3 Tennyson *In Memoriam*: sections 54-56, 93-95
(Supplementary Browning poem: “Apparent Failure” Loucks 307-09)
- 4/8 Tennyson *In Memoriam*: sections 118, 120, 123, 124, 126, 127, 131,
excerpt from Epilogue
- 4/10 Introduction: “Evolution” 1560
Darwin from *The Origin of Species* 1561-69
from *The Descent of Man* 1569-73
L. Huxley from *The Life and Letters of T. H. Huxley* 1573-77
Gosse from *Father and Son* 1578-80
- 4/15 R. Browning “Caliban upon Setebos” Loucks 292-300

Education and Culture

- 4/17 Newman from *The Idea of a University* 1078-86
Arnold from "The Function of Criticism at the Present
Time" 1404-18
- 4/22 T. H. Huxley from "Science and Culture" 1451-57
Arnold "Literature and Science" 1436-49
- 4/24 R. Browning "Development" Loucks 482-85
(Supplementary Browning poem: "House" Loucks 455-56)

*Read the headnote on each author in addition to the day's textual assignment.

Graded Assignments: You will take a midterm exam during the semester (date noted above) worth 100 points. You will also be writing a research paper of 12-15 pages worth 150 points. This will be due Monday, April 15 at the start of the class period. The Final Exam will be worth 200 points. Further, there will be a report/participation component worth 50 points. Thus, the total raw score for the course will be 500 points. I will convert your accumulated points to a number on a 100-point scale, then assign a letter grade in accordance with the following breakdown: A=90-100, B=80-89, C=70-79, D=60-69, F=0-59. I will round up average scores within a half-point of the next higher letter grade (e.g., an average of 79.5 would earn you a B).

Missed/Late Assignments: If you miss an exam, it is your responsibility to contact me prior to the next class session and arrange to take it. If for some very good reason you miss the Final Exam (Wednesday, May 1, 6-8 p.m.), you must contact me and arrange to take it by Friday of Finals Week (emergencies excepted). I reserve the right to assign a score of zero on the exam if you fail to meet these rescheduling requirements. My paper deadlines are basically firm, though I will give you a one-day extension if you notify me of a particular problem in advance. Beyond that extension, a penalty of one letter grade per calendar day will apply.

Attendance: You may miss up to three class sessions, whatever your reasons. If you exceed that limit, you will have to drop the class or be dropped by me. You may not leave class early. Please do not bring children to class with you. Turn off all beeping gadgets at the door.

Course Announcements: Now and then I may send an informational e-mail to your Cub address, so do periodically check your account.

Course Evaluations: The faculty and administration at UCA value your feedback on the quality of classroom instruction, course content, and student learning. Do exercise your right to be heard on such matters. This semester you may fill out student evaluations

between Monday, April 1 and Sunday, May 5. Log on to myUCA and click the Evals icon on the top bar.

Academic Integrity Statement: “The University of Central Arkansas affirms its commitment to academic integrity and expects all members of the university community to accept shared responsibility for maintaining academic integrity. Students in this course are subject to the provisions of the university's Academic Integrity Policy, approved by the Board of Trustees as Board Policy No. 709 on February 10, 2010, and published in the Student Handbook. Penalties for academic misconduct in this course may include a failing grade on an assignment, a failing grade in the course, or any other course-related sanction the instructor determines to be appropriate. Continued enrollment in this course affirms a student's acceptance of this university policy.”

Plagiarism, a form of intellectual dishonesty, occurs when you present someone else’s ideas or language as your own, intentionally neglecting to give due credit. In general, instructors are required to report all cheating infractions, and the university keeps a record of confirmed charges. The administration considers this record when imposing university penalties for cheating (e.g., suspension, expulsion).

Building Emergency Plan: In the event of a fire alarm, proceed immediately to either stairwell and exit the building through the north or south doors, assembling near the fountain in front of Irby. In case of a tornado threat, again use the stairwells—*not* the elevator—and assemble in the first-floor hallway; if the hallway is full, stay in the stairwells. Should there be a shooter on campus, we’ll stay in the classroom, shut the blinds, turn off the lights, and barricade the door.

University Policies: As a student member of the university community, you should be familiar with your rights and responsibilities. You can find university policies regarding such matters as academic and personal conduct (including sexual harassment) in the *Student Handbook*.

Disabilities Statement: “The University of Central Arkansas adheres to the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you need accommodation under this act due to a disability, contact the UCA Office of Disability Services at 450-3613.”