

**Carleton University  
Fall 2014  
English Department**

**ENG 3553A  
The 19<sup>th</sup>-Century Novel  
Tues./Thurs. 1:05 - 2:25**

**Location: *Please confirm on Carleton Central***

**Instructor: Pat Whiting  
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**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** Imagine an age when a large segment of the population got really excited about novels, when friends talked about plots and characters in books as frequently and casually as we talk about them in movies. Imagine an earlier time (in stunning ways not unlike our own) when changes in technology radically altered readers' relationships to books, changed authors' relationships to their readers, and made the literary establishment mad. In the 19th century, the steam printing press made books cheaper and more accessible, which affected what people wanted to read, which affected what authors felt they could write if they wanted to make money, which drove the literary establishment to distraction.

All the books we will read this term were best-sellers in their day, sought out and devoured by readers despite such heartwarming critical assessments as "all the Chartists in the land are less dangerous than this nightmare of a book" and "one of the coarsest books which we ever perused," and despite raising such questions as whether it was "advisable to raise so ruthlessly the veil which hides the rottenness pervading modern society."

In our investigation into what made these books so popular, we will look at the frequently debated distinction between high and popular literary culture, the reciprocal relationships between the novel and Victorian culture epistemologically, ideologically, and socially, and the ongoing tug-of-war between realism and romance in the 19<sup>th</sup>-century novel.

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

Ainsworth, William Harrison. *Jack Sheppard* (Broadview)  
Bronte, Charlotte. *Jane Eyre* (Broadview)  
Thackeray, William Makepeace. *Vanity Fair* (Oxford)  
Dickens, Charles *Hard Times* (Broadview)

Gaskell, Elizabeth. *North and South* (Oxford)  
Eliot, George. *Middlemarch* (Broadview)

The Broadview texts will be shrink-wrapped at a special discounted rate. These books will be available at Benjamin Books, 122 Osgoode Street. You will also need a good dictionary and a grammar reference.

## **EVALUATION**

<b>Attendance</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Discussion group</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>In-class midterm exam</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Critical journal</b>	<b>30%</b>
<b>Final exam</b>	<b>35%</b>

**Please read this carefully:**

1. **Attendance Policy:** Class attendance is mandatory. Excused absences must be medically documented. Absences for work reasons will not be excused. Students who attend only part of a class will be counted as absent from that class. Everyone has two “free” unexcused absences. The third unexcused absence will result in 2 points being deducted from the attendance mark; the fourth unexcused absence will result in 3 additional points being deducted from the attendance mark; the fifth unexcused absence will result in the loss of the whole attendance mark. Participation in class discussions will factor into the overall attendance/participation mark.
2. **Discussion group:** Small groups of students will lead class discussions on each of the novels. Each member of the group will be marked anonymously by the rest of the group, and the average will comprise the 5% discussion mark.
3. **Critical Journal:** Students will complete a critical journal comprised of entries on each novel on the syllabus. Each entry must be 250-300 words in length, and all entries must focus on the same single topic taken from the list of topics provided. The finished journal must contain an Introduction of 400-500 words that summarizes your findings on the topic you’ve chosen and states or at least suggests a plausible thesis. Obviously, if you draft your entries throughout the course, the final journal will be largely a matter of editing.

**NB: No secondary sources are required for the journal.**

4. **Mandatory Early Feedback Option:** Your first journal entry on *Jack Sheppard* is due on September 25. This entry will be marked and graded, but the grade will not factor into your journal mark. Instead, you may use the comments and corrections to revise this entry in your final journal submission and to use it as a guide to your written work in the course. **Failure to hand in the early feedback assignment will result in 3 points being deducted from the Attendance/Participation mark.**

5. **In-class assignments and examinations:** In-class assignments and examinations must be written on the date indicated on the syllabus and may not be made up unless a student has a valid doctor's certificate.

**The Fall exam period is December 10-21 (including Saturdays and Sundays) and the Winter exam period is April 11-23 (including Saturdays and Sundays). Since the Registrar's Office does not set exam dates until well into each term, you must plan to be available throughout the entire examination period. Do not purchase plane tickets with departure dates prior to Dec. 21, 2014, or April 23, 2015, until you know your exam schedule. Exams will not be rescheduled for students who take on other commitments during the exam period.**

6. **Extensions:** Extensions on papers may involve a penalty. All extensions must be arranged by e-mail at least 24 hours in advance of the due date. **No exceptions will be made to this arrangement.**

7. **E-Mail Protocol:** You are encouraged to e-mail me your thesis statements up to 48 hours before a paper is due. Please identify the course in the subject line; otherwise, your e-mail may be deleted without being read. Please do not send attachments. Copy your thesis statement onto the e-mail.

**I DO NOT ACCEPT PAPERS BY E-MAIL. YOU MAY E-MAIL AN ESSAY TO ME ONLY UNDER ALL THE FOLLOWING CIRCUMSTANCES AND CONDITIONS:**

1. If you have printer problems at the last minute
2. If you e-mail me the finished essay by the beginning of the class on the day it is due.
3. If you come to that class and inform me of the problem.
4. If you bring a hard copy of the essay to my office within 24 hours of the due date.

8. **Collaboration:** Although you are encouraged to talk with each other about assignments and to review each other's work, all assignments written for evaluation are to be the original work of individual students.

9. **Plagiarism:** See statement on Instructional Offenses on the FASS website at <http://www4.carleton.ca/cu0809uc/regulations/acadregsuniv14.html>

Plagiarism is a serious matter and can be grounds for expulsion from the University. Plagiarism often occurs because a student is not sure where to draw the line between common knowledge, paraphrase, and direct quotation -- and indeed, the distinctions are sometimes hard to make. The rule of thumb is this: All direct quotations have to be contained by quotation marks and their sources cited (see note on bibliographical form below); all paraphrases have to be clearly indicated as such, and their sources also cited. When in doubt about whether a point that you are making is common, shared knowledge in the public domain or the "intellectual property" of another author, either contact me for clarification or err in the direction of documentation.

**Please note that I hand over ALL cases of suspected plagiarism to the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences for investigation.**

10. **Academic Accommodation:** You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term because of disability, pregnancy or religious obligations. Please review the course outline promptly and write to me with any requests for academic

accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist.

Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Documented disabilities could include but are not limited to mobility/physical impairments, specific Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/psychological disabilities, sensory disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and chronic medical conditions. Registered PMC students are required to contact the PMC, 613-520-6608, every term to ensure that your Instructor receives your Letter of Accommodation, no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations. Please visit the PMC website for further information: <http://www.carleton.ca/pmc/>

**Pregnancy obligation:** write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website: <http://www.carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/academic/students/>

**Religious obligation:** write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website: <http://www.carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/academic/students/>

## SYLLABUS

Sept. 4 – Introduction

Sept. 9 – *Jack Sheppard*  
Sept. 11 – *Jack Sheppard*

Sept. 16 – *Jack Sheppard*  
Sept. 18 – *Jack Sheppard*

Sept. 23 – *Jane Eyre*  
Sept. 25 – *Jane Eyre*; **Early Feedback Assignment due**

Sept. 30 – *Jane Eyre*  
Oct. 2 – *Jane Eyre*

Oct. 7 – *Vanity Fair*  
Oct. 9 – *Vanity Fair*

Oct. 14 – *Vanity Fair*  
Oct. 16 – *Vanity Fair*

Oct. 21 – **TERM TEST**  
Oct. 23 – *Middlemarch*

### **Oct. 27-31 – FALL BREAK**

Nov. 4 – *Middlemarch*  
Nov. 6 – *Middlemarch*

Nov. 11 – *Middlemarch*  
Nov. 13 – *Middlemarch*

Nov. 18 – *North and South*  
Nov. 20 – *North and South*

Nov. 25 – *North and South*  
Nov. 27 – *North and South*

Dec. 2 – *Hard Times*  
Dec. 4 – *Hard Times*; **Critical Journal Due**

**FINAL EXAM TO BE ANNOUNCED**