

**Carleton University**  
**Winter 2014**

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**Engl 5501: The Printed Voice: Speech, Sound and Print in Victorian Culture**

This course examines Victorian sound phenomena, with a special emphasis on the spoken word and the recording of the speaking voice in print forms. Scholars have tended to define the Victorian period as dominated by the visual, yet as John Picker, Ivan Kreilkamp, Jonathan Sterne and others have begun to demonstrate, Victorians theorized the auditory landscape--or soundscape--in ways that continue to shape our acoustic experience of the world. The course will address the following sorts of questions: how can we understand--and what is the value of trying to approach--the experience of sound before the era of sound recording machines? How did print forms--the realist novel, the newspaper, the transcript--anticipate sound-based technologies such as the phonograph, telephone, and radio? What was the status of the speaking voice in a culture increasingly dominated by print media? How was the experience of noise, silence, voice, and/or music represented in print? Whose voices got recorded, and with what means?

**Required Texts:**

*Prince, The History of Mary Prince*

*Eliot, Adam Bede*

*Dickens, The Pickwick Papers*

*James, The Bostonians*

**A required coursepack will be available for purchase and will contain some or all of the following: short fiction by Henry James; dramatic monologues by DG Rossetti, Augusta Webster, and Robert Browning; Henry Mayhew's street interviews with prostitutes and children; and critical theory by Mikhael Bakhtin, Roland Barthes, Walter Benjamin, Walter Ong, Steven Connor, Ivan Kreilkamp, Lisa Gitelman, and Jonathan Sterne.**

**Books will be available for purchase at Haven Books at 43 Seneca Street in Old Ottawa South.**

**Course Assignments:**

- Conference paper proposal & presentation (40%) (20-30 minutes), schedule to be decided in the first class
- Research paper (40%) (18-20 pages, due at the end of term)
- Class participation, including short critical response papers: (20%)

Late assignments will be penalized **one grade per day**. Extensions on essays will be granted only under extreme circumstances, and must be negotiated with me well before the deadline. If you cannot meet the deadline because of illness, an extension will be granted, but you must negotiate the extension with me *ahead of time* and arrange to provide me with a doctor's note. In extreme emergencies, extensions at the end of term may need to be negotiated with administration.

### **Plagiarism:**

Carleton University's *Undergraduate Calendar* defines plagiarism as "presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one's own." This also applies to material from books, articles, websites, etc. I am required by the University to report all cases of plagiarism. Do not hesitate to come to me with any questions about how to cite material in your written work.

### **Assignments**

The following assignments are mandatory. You must complete all of them in order to receive a grade for the course.

#### **Conference paper presentation (Value: 40%)**

##### **Due Dates: Please see class schedule**

A 350-500 word proposal and list of works cited will be required **one week prior** to your presentation. The proposal should indicate the principal texts the paper will speak to, the line of argument, and give some idea of the relation of the paper to existing scholarship on the topic. I will not grade the proposal, but failure to submit one will result in a grade of zero for the assignment. Late proposals will affect your final grade on the paper by one grade point for every day the proposal is late.

In keeping with the usual practice of the academic conference, your paper should take no longer than **20 minutes** to deliver, and you should be prepared to lead class discussion for 10 more. Twenty minutes isn't a lot of time (it's about 8 or 9 double-spaced pages of writing), so choose a manageable topic.

For the sake of your listeners, please try your best to write your presentation in a **listener-friendly style**. That means using straightforward syntax, clear language, signposting (guiding the listener), and summarizing your main points. A **handout** outlining your paper's thesis, key arguments, significant quotations and/or illustrations can often be an

effective way of keeping your listeners engaged, but this is not a requirement of the assignment.

It is also your responsibility to **engage meaningfully with the ideas presented in your peers' papers**. That is, your peers' conference presentations are not your chance to drift off. Engaged, active listening and response to each other's papers will factor into your participation grade in the course.

**Research paper (Value: 40%)**

**Length: 18-20 pages**

**Due date: TBA**

You will devise the topic and thesis of the essay. You may write on a topic different from your conference paper, or you may choose to expand on the ideas, research and feedback gathered in the conference paper assignment. If you choose the latter, the research paper must demonstrate substantial revision of the conference version of the paper. That is, you are not permitted to simply reprint the conference paper and add ten pages of new writing.

**Essay Format:**

Please prepare and submit your essays as follows:

- No duotangs or covers;
- Single-sided pages, stapled in left corner;
- Double spacing, 1" margins, 12 point, Times New Roman font;
- All pages numbered;
- No separate title page; heading information on page 1 of essay;
- Use MLA citation style;
- Provide Works Cited section according to MLA guidelines;
- Please keep a copy of your paper;
- Electronic submissions will not be accepted.

**Class participation (Value 20%)**

Class participation will be evaluated as follows:

- Did you attend class regularly?
- Have you read the assigned texts?
- Did you respond to or engage with other students in class discussion?
- Did other students and/or the professor learn from your contributions?
- Did you use your critical response papers effectively in class?

**Critical Response papers**

The format for this assignment will be explained in class, but the general idea is that you will be asked to bring written responses to class on a regular basis (although not every week) to be shared with the other seminar participants. These will be graded and will contribute to your participation grade.

**A word about attendance:**

I take attendance seriously. I accept only illness or extreme family emergency as justifications for absence. Deadlines, workload, and assignments for your other courses are not valid reasons for missing this seminar, or for handing in work late. If you cannot make it to class because of illness or family emergency, please inform me ahead of time, if possible, and provide documentation (a doctor's note, death certificate, etc.). Frequent, undocumented absences will seriously affect your participation grade. Please show up for class on time, and do not bring steaming hot meals to class.