

Preliminary Web Course Description

*Please note: This is a preliminary web course description only. The department reserves the right to change without notice any information in this description. The final, binding course outline will be distributed in the first class of the semester.

School of English and Theatre Studies

Course Code: ENGL*2130-02	Course Title: Literature & Social Change	Date of Offering: WINTER 2018
Course Instructor: Michelle Elleray	School of English and Theatre Studies	
<p>Brief Course Synopsis:</p> <p>The Victorian social problem novel saw authors address a pressing social issue through a fictional representation of the issue's effects on characters. The reader's attachment to a character thus functioned to draw the Victorian public into attending to aspects of their society such as poverty, working conditions, animal welfare, and the problems attendant on what we would now call fast fashion. We will read three primary texts: Charles Dickens' <i>Oliver Twist</i> (1837-39), Charlotte Elizabeth Tonna's <i>The Wrongs of Woman</i> (1843-44), and Anna Sewell's <i>Black Beauty</i> (1877). Theoretical works will draw from Marxist criticism and will focus particularly on Antonio Gramsci's concept of hegemony. Students will research and present on the social changes the texts reflect, respond to, or help initiate, and then integrate this research into an analysis of the novels. You are encouraged to investigate the links between historical and contemporary concerns.</p>		
Course Format: Seminar	<p>Methods of Evaluation and Weights:</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Presentation: 15%</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Participation: 5%</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Quiz: 10%</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Mini-essay 1: 15% (500-700 words)</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Mini-essay 2: 15% (500-700 words)</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Mini-essay 3: 15% (500-700 words)</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Final Essay (expanded version of mini-essay): 25% (2100 words)</p>	
<p>Texts and/or Resources Required (e.g. Internet access, specific textbook title, lab kit, etc.)</p> <p>Charles Dickens, <i>Oliver Twist</i> (Oxford University Press)</p> <p>Charlotte Elizabeth Tonna, <i>The Wrongs of Woman</i> [PDF available through course website]</p> <p>Anna Sewell, <i>Black Beauty</i> (Oxford University Press)</p>		
Other information that you wish share about the course (optional):		

Counts for the 18th-/19th-century distribution requirement
Core seminar for English majors and minors