

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*4250	Course Title: 18 th - & 19 th -century literatures	Date of Offering: W20
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Course Instructor: Michelle Elleray	Course Format: Seminar
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Brief Course Synopsis:

The Victorian period saw the rise of industrial pollution, urban overcrowding, animal extinction, and environmentally-damaging resource extraction. Meanwhile scientists expanded the Victorians' understanding of geological time from thousands of years to millennia, the first and second laws of thermodynamics focused attention on energy and generated narratives of resource exhaustion, while Darwin exploded the presumed distinction between human and non-human animals. This course will situate the Victorians' developing understandings of the biosphere in conversation with the ecocritical concerns raised in our own time as we investigate Victorian literature. Issues we might examine are the extent to which Victorian social causes intersect with a concern for environmental justice; the mobilizing force of narratives generated by scientific reframings of the environment and its resources; the extent to which a post-Darwinian awareness of the interrelatedness of organisms and environments raised questions of biological egalitarianism; the relationship between the Victorians' fascination with geology and the content and/or form of Victorian literature; or an investigation into what is enabled through Victorian confluences of moral and environmental pollution.

Methods of Evaluation and Weight:

Participation	10%
Public writing (600-750 words)	20%
Abstract & lit review	10%
Research presentation	20%
Research essay (4500-6000 words)	40%

Texts and/or Resources Required (e.g. Internet access, specific textbook title, lab kit, etc.)

- Fenn, George Manville. *Nat the Naturalist; or, A Boy's Adventure in the Eastern Seas*. (1883).
- Gaskell, Elizabeth. *North and South* (1855)
- Hopkins, Gerard Manley. Poems
- Kingsley, Charles. *The Water-Babies: A Fairy Tale for a Land Baby* (1863).
- Ruskin, John. *The Storm-Cloud of the Nineteenth Century* (1884).
- Wells, H. G. *The Island of Dr. Moreau*. (1896)
- assigned secondary reading available online or through library course reserve.

This course counts towards the following distribution requirement(s) for students who registered at the University prior to the Fall of 2018: 19th-century literature

Other information about the course (optional):

This is a **double-weighted course** and is both reading and writing intensive

*Students who registered at the University of Guelph after Fall 2018 must fulfill the “new” major and minor requirements. Students who registered at the University of Guelph prior to Fall 2018 must fulfill the requirements of the Calendar in effect when they first enrolled unless they have filed a Schedule of Studies Change Request to change to the 2018-2019 calendar. For more information, please consult the major and minor checklists at <https://www.uoguelph.ca/arts/sets/undergraduate/english/current-student-information>.