

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: F'20
---------------------------	---	---------------------------

Course Instructor: Michelle Elleray	Course Format: Seminar
--	---------------------------

Brief Course Synopsis:

The Victorian period saw the rise of industrial pollution, urban overcrowding, animal extinction, and environmentally-damaging resource extraction, as well as hunting (whether in the name of science or sport) enabled through Britain's imperial reach. 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 the Victorian novel. 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 reframing 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; or interrogation of Victorian conceptions of moral and environmental pollution.

This is a **double-weighted** reading- and writing-intensive course. The assessment focuses on a) conveying complex material to a general (not necessarily academic) audience, and b) producing an extended academic research essay.

Methods of Evaluation and Weight:

Participation	10%
Public writing (600-750 words)	15%
Podcast	15%
Abstract & lit review	5%
Research presentation	20%
Research essay (4500-6000 words)	35%

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

- George Manville Fenn. *Nat the Naturalist; or, A Boy's Adventure in the Eastern Seas*. 1883. [available online]
- Elizabeth Gaskell, *North and South*. 1855. Oxford UP, 2008.
- Gerard Manley Hopkins, poems [available online]
- Charles Kingsley, *The Water-Babies: A Fairy Tale for a Land Baby*. 1863. Broadview P, 2008 [available as ebook through broadviewpress.com].

- H. G. Wells, *The Island of Dr. Moreau*. 1896. Broadview P, 2009 [available as ebook through broadviewpress.com].
- Plus assigned secondary reading on ecocriticism, the Victorian period, and readings of specific poems or novels.

This course counts towards the following distribution requirement(s) for students who registered at the University prior to the Fall of 2018:
18th- & 19th-century literatures

Information about mode of delivery (synchronous/asynchronous/other details):

We will have 3 hours of instructional and discussion time per week. 1.5 hours will be asynchronous (you will work through a posted sequence of material in your own time prior to the online class), and 1.5 hours will be synchronous (an online class in which we talk about the readings and discussion points for that week). We will hold class meetings via Zoom within CourseLink—this means you will need to sign up for a zoom account (free at <https://zoom.us>) **using your University of Guelph email address.**

The library has put in place measures to make physical books available for your research where needed. Luckily ecocriticism is a fairly recent area within Victorian Studies, so a lot of material is available online through the library in the form of ebooks and articles.

*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>.