English 451A: Victorian Poetry and Poetics

Time: MW 1:30 - 2.50
Place: RCH 309
Office Hours: (HH 223) MWF 3.00-5.00; T/Th 9.30-12.00; 2.00-4.00
or by appointment, 888-4567 ex 3743. Email: jsnorth@uwaterloo.ca


Purpose: To study the poetry and poetics of Tennyson, Browning, Arnold, Hopkins and a few
minor poets; to write literary analyses of their work; and to become familiar with
basic reference tools for the Victorian period.

Assignments: Reading: 20-30 pages of poetry weekly
              Writing: two essays, a library assignment, a midterm and a final exam, as follows:

              Sep 25 Library Assignment 10 marks
              Oct 7 Essay 1 15
              16 Mid term exam 20
              Nov 18 Essay 2 20
              Dec 18 Final exam 25
              100 marks

Note 1 The Associate Dean of Arts advises all students to be aware of the definition and
consequences of plagiarism, as outlined in the University Calendar.

Note 2 The following schedule may be adjusted in minor ways as class discussion necessitates.

Schedule:
Mon Sept 09 Introduction; Tennyson: Tears, Idle Tears, The Lady of Shalott,
11 The Hesperides; The Palace of Art

Mon Sept 16 Oenone; Demeter and Persephone; Ulysses; Tithonus;
18 Lucretius, The Lotus Eaters; Tiresias

Mon Sept 23 Maud
25 Maud, In Memoriam Library assignment due

Mon Sept 30 In Memoriam, Crossing the Bar
   Oct 02 Lancelot and Elaine, The Last Tournament

Mon Oct 07 Browning: Porphyria’s Lover; My Last Duchess; Soliloquy of the Spanish Cloister;
09 The Bishop Orders His Tomb; Fra Lippo Lippi; Andrea del Sarto; A Toccato of
Galuppi’s

Wed Oct 16 “Childe Roland to the Dark Tower Came”; An Epistle Containing the Strange
Medical Experience of Karshish the Arab Physician; Cleon

Mon Oct 21 Mid term examination; also, A Grammarian’s Funeral; Abt Vogler
23 How It Strikes a Contemporary; One Word More
Arnold, “Shakespeare”, “In Harmony with Nature”
English 451A
Reading Schedule

Mon Nov 04  **Arnold:** The Forsaken Merman; Resignation; Switzerland
            06 Empedocles on Etna; The Buried Life;

Mon Nov 11 Dover Beach; A Summer Night
            13 Rugby Chapel; The Function of Criticism at the Present Time; The Study of
            Poetry

Mon Nov 18 **Hopkins:** God’s Grandeur; Spring
            20 As Kingfishers Catch Fire; Hurrahing in Harvest, Spring and Fall; Pied Beauty

Mon Nov 25 No Worst, There Is None; My Own Heart Let Me More Have Pity On
            27 Carrion Comfort; Thou Art Indeed Just, Lord
            That Nature is a Heraclitean Fire; The Caged Skylark

Mon Dec  2 Candle Indoors; Lantern Out of Doors (to be supplied)