ENGLISH 451B
Literature of the Victorian Age 2
Winter 2005: HH 280 MWF 11:30 - 12:20

Professor Kate Lawson
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Office Hours: Wednesday & Friday 10:00-11:00

TEXTS:
N.B. Because these are long novels, I suggest you start reading in advance (if possible)
William Makepeace Thackeray, Vanity Fair (Oxford, World’s Classics)
Elizabeth Gaskell, North and South (Oxford, World’s Classics)
Wilkie Collins, The Moonstone (Broadview)
Thomas Hardy, Tess of the d’Urbervilles (Broadview)
Readings from Ruskin, Mill, Carlyle and Newman available in volume 2B of the Norton
Anthology of English Literature (I will make a copy available to you from which you may
photocopy.)

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
An historical and critical study of major novelists and essayists of the period. We will consider
topics such as the following: class relations; history; liberty and liberalism; money and
capitalism; men and gentlemen; female sexuality; sexual morality; violence; and the
unconscious.

METHOD OF EVALUATION:

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<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Due/Write</th>
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<tr>
<td>Short essay (4 pages in MLA format)</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>February 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Longer Essay (7-8 pages in MLA format)</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>April 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>Examination period: April 8-21</td>
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LATE POLICY:
Essays are due on the dates assigned above. Extensions may be granted for medical reasons;
please provide a doctor’s note. If you have personal problems, please speak with me, preferably
in advance. Late essays will be penalized 2 marks for every day late.

ON-LINE RESOURCES:
Some on-line resources you may find useful are the following:
Victorian Web: http://www.victorianweb.org
Victorian Research Web: http://victorianresearch.org/
Victorian London: http://www.victorianlondon.org
PLAGIARISM and ACADEMIC OFFENCES:
Note on avoidance of academic offences: All students registered in the courses of the Faculty of Arts are expected to know what constitutes an academic offence, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for their academic actions. When the commission of an offence is established, disciplinary penalties will be imposed in accord with Policy #71 (Student Academic Discipline). For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students are directed to consult the summary of Policy #71 which is supplied in the Undergraduate Calendar (section 1; on the Web: http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.pdf
If you need help in learning how to avoid offences such as plagiarism, cheating, and double submission, or if you need clarification of aspects of the discipline policy, ask your course instructor for guidance. Other resources regarding the discipline policy are your academic advisor and the Undergraduate Associate Dean. Also see "How to Avoid Plagiarism and Other Written Offences: A Guide for Students" http://watarts.uwaterloo.ca/~sager/plagiarism.html

Students who believe that they have been wrongfully or unjustly penalized have the right to grieve; refer to Policy #70, Student Grievance, http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.html

NOTE FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:
The Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD), located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the OPD at the beginning of each academic term.
ENGL 451B: SCHEDULE, Winter 2004

January 5:
Introduction to the course

January 7:
Introduction to the period

January 10:
from John Ruskin, from The Stones of Venice (1851-53) on the savageness of Gothic architecture;
John Stuart Mill, On Liberty (1859) Ch. 3

January 12-21:
George Eliot, Silas Marner (1861)

January 24- February 4:
William Makepeace Thackeray, Vanity Fair (1847-48)

February 7:
Thomas Carlyle, Past and Present (1843) from Bk 3, ch 13 “Democracy” and from Bk 4, ch 4 “Captains of Industry”

February 9-18:
Elizabeth Gaskell, North and South (1855)

February 21-25: READING WEEK

***February 28: Last day to drop courses without academic penalty***

March 28:
John Henry Newman, Apologia Pro Vita Sua (1864-65), from ch 1. “Liberalism”

March 2-11:
Wilkie Collins, The Moonstone (1868)

March 14-30:
Thomas Hardy, Tess of the d’Urbervilles (1891)

April 1: Final test
ENGL 451B Short Essay Topics

K. Lawson

Due: February 4  Length: 1000-1200 words (approximately 4 double-spaced pages)

The purpose of this assignment is to allow you to demonstrate your skill at constructing a clear argument based on the analysis of a literary text and quoting judiciously from the text(s).

- As in any English essay, you must write clearly and grammatically.
- Your essay should have a title, a thesis, and a clear and effective organization (introduction, body, conclusion).
- Citations should conform to MLA format and you will need a Works Cited.
- You do not need to use secondary sources for this essay. If you do, make sure you cite them correctly.

Write on one of the following topics:

1. In *On Liberty* John Stuart Mill writes:
   He who does anything because it is the custom makes no choice. He gains no practice either in discerning or desiring what is best. The mental and moral, like the muscular powers are improved only by being used.

   Consider Mill’s argument about custom in relation to *Silas Marner*. What is the role of custom in that novel as it affects the life of Silas? You may consider custom in Silas’s life in the Lantern Yard as well as in Raveloe.

2. Although *Vanity Fair* is a comic novel, in the section “Before the Curtain” Thackeray writes:
   As the manager of the Performance sits before the curtain on the boards and looks into the Fair, a feeling of profound melancholy comes over him in his survey of the bustling place.

   Choose one chapter of *Vanity Fair* and examine whether comedy or “melancholy” is the result of his satire in that chapter. You should do this by first identifying what is the object of Thackeray’s satire, then tracing his satiric structure, methods, and intent though the course of that chapter. Whom is he satirizing and why? You might also want to consider how sentimentality interplays with satire.

3. *Silas Marner* could be said to work through a series of intrusions and exclusions, and where characters could be said either to belong to a community or to be an outcast. Examine how one belongs or fails to belong to a community in *Silas Marner* through an examination of the experience of two or three characters.