COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The period of British literature from 1885 to 1918 is a "time of transition" between what we may term "High Victorianism" on the one side, and "High Modernism" on the other. In many ways, Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1887 symbolized the height of British prestige and Empire. What followed, however, was a growing uncertainty and anxiety. The trials of Oscar Wilde (1895), the Boer War (1899-1901), the end of the 19th century, the death of Victoria (1901), the sinking of the Titanic (1912)--these events tended to undermine British confidence. The rise of German imperialism at the beginning of the 20th century brought fear and eventually World War I (1914-1918).

In addition, the 30-odd years of our period witnessed important social and cultural events: a newly politicized and organized women's movement; major developments in social sciences, such as psychoanalysis; post-Darwinian religious scepticism; the commodification of beauty; and developments in visual mechanization, such as photography and film. All these were both influences on and topics of literature.

While noting the ways in which the literature of this period overlaps with Victorianism and Modernism, this course focuses on the period's unique aesthetic, philosophical, and socio-political views. We will consider developments in the novel, short story, poetry, and drama in relation to various cultural and political issues, including the suffragette movement, the rise of the "New Woman," conflicts of imperialism, gender, commodity culture, war, the politics of aesthetics, and growing anxiety.

OBJECTIVES:

1. To give you practice and training in reading and interpreting works of literature, with particular emphasis on their cultural and historical background.
2. To give you practice in scholarly research and in the critical analysis of individual works of literature, as well as the comparative analysis of several works.
3. To give you some practice presenting your ideas orally.
4. To help you write more effectively.
5. To give you some enjoyment reading (I hope!).
TEXT BOOKS:

The following text books are required:

*English 460A: Reading Package* (available from the bookstore).
E. M. Forster, *Howards End* (St. Martin’s).
Thomas Hardy, *Jude the Obscure* (Broadview).
Katherine Mansfield, *In a German Pension* (Dover).
George Bernard Shaw, *Pygmalion* (Dover).
Robert Louis Stevenson, *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* (Broadview).
Bram Stoker, *Dracula* (Broadview).

In addition, some poems and short works on the course will be provided on handouts.

The following text is recommended:

Jane E. Aaron and Murray McArthur, *The Little, Brown Compact Handbook*, First Canadian Edition (Addison-Wesley). This text has very useful sections on punctuation, grammar, and sentence errors, as well as suggestions for writing essays and a summary of the MLA style. Please note that all royalties derived from the sale of this text will be donated to the Department of English scholarship fund.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF READINGS:

2. *Stevenson*: *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* (1886).
5. *Ada Leverson*: **"Suggestion"* (Reading Package).
GRADING AND ASSIGNMENTS:

1. **Either**: One short (5-10 minute) presentation, based on an assigned poem or short story; the presentation should include a one-page handout. (15%)
   
   **Or**: One short (4-page) essay on an assigned topic. (15%)

2. An annotated bibliography, which should be the basis of your major essay. (10%)

3. One essay of approximately 10 double-spaced, typewritten pages (2500 words); the essay will involve some research. (35%)

4. One three-hour final exam. (40%)

**Notes:**

a. Class participation will affect the final grade positively (up to 5%). There may be some deduction of marks of marks (up to 5%) if your attendance is noticeably irregular.

b. One number grade (1%) may be subtracted for each day that a paper is late, unless an extension has been granted in advance.

**And the Faculty of Arts requires that we notify you of the following:**

"Note on avoidance of academic offenses: All students registered in the courses of the Faculty of Arts are expected to know what constitutes an academic offense, to avoid committing academic offenses, and to take responsibility for their academic actions. When the commission of an offense is established, disciplinary penalties will be imposed in accord with Policy #71 (Student Academic Discipline). For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students are directed to consult the summary of Policy #71 (Student Academic Discipline) which is supplied in the Undergraduate Calendar (p. 1:11). If you need help in learning how to avoid offenses 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."
ENGLISH 460A: ASSIGNMENT INFORMATION

1. Presentations (alternative to short essay):
Choose from the works preceded by an asterisk on the Tentative Schedule. If a work is preceded by two asterisks, two students may do a group presentation. Presentations should be no longer than 10 minutes; if two students are presenting, the presentation should be no longer than 20 minutes. Your presentation should include a handout. Please note that the main aim of the presentation is to stimulate discussion.

2. Short Essay (alternative to presentation):
Length: approximately four typed pages (1000 words)
Due: Monday, October 2, 2000.
Topic: Both Thomas Hardy's poem "Neutral Tones" and Yeats's "The Sorrow of Love" were published in the 1890s. Select one of these poems, and show how it is similar to and/or different from the fin de siecle poems on the syllabus. You may compare the poem you select to a specific fin de siecle poem, or (preferably) you may deal more generally with themes, techniques, etc. Please do not use any secondary sources for this essay.

3. Annotated Bibliography and Major Essay

The annotated bibliography is a prelude to your major essay.

Your major essay should deal with at least one of the novels or plays on the syllabus, although you may use "In a German Pension." It will involve research, and your thesis should be specific and original. I will suggest possible topics in class, as well as secondary sources, but feel free to make your own suggestions.

Once you have selected a topic, you should consult the MLA Bibliography for books and articles that address your primary text(s) and/or your theoretical approach. You should read as many articles, essays in anthologies, chapters in books, etc. as possible. Preferably, the works should have been published within the last ten years, but you may also wish to consult works from the period itself (e.g., historical documents, contemporary reviews, etc.).

Develop a topic proposal to introduce your annotated bibliography. This should consist of one or two paragraphs that contain a thesis statement and an overview of the main idea(s) that you will develop, and that suggest ways that your argument will differ from and/or build upon the works of the other scholars that you examined in your research. This proposal may, in fact, become the introduction of your essay.

For your annotated bibliography, select the four works which you feel will be most important to your own essay, and write paragraph-long annotations of them. Be sure that you read them carefully and understand the key ideas. Each annotation should include a summary of the critic's main argument and a clear idea of how the work relates to and/or differs from your own intended argument. It is useful to note whether you disagree with any aspects of the critic's argument.

Annotated bibliographies will be due November 15, 2000.

Your final essay should present your ideas, including your research, clearly and well. Your essay should use at least three secondary sources; make the relevance of these secondary sources clear, and do not include them merely for the sake of including them.

Your final essay will be due on the last day of classes, although I'd advise trying to hand it in earlier. It should be approximately 10 double-spaced, typewritten pages (2500 words) and should follow MLA style rules. It will be marked for content, organization, style and correctness.