History 3140: Victorian Britain

Professor Nadja Durbach

MWF 11:50am-12:40pm
Office: 223 Carolyn Tanner Irish Building
Phone: 581-7605
Email: N.Durbach@utah.edu
Office hours: by appointment

This course investigates some of the major social and cultural developments in Britain between the Industrial Revolution and the introduction of immigration legislation in 1905. Using the analytical categories of gender, race, and class, this course explores the themes of home and family, industrialization and urbanization, the rise of the Victorian state, the relationship between the nation and the empire, the tensions between science and religion, and the anxieties around sexuality and the body.

Course Objectives:

At the end of this course, the student will be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the events and ideas that shaped nineteenth-century British society and culture.
- Construct and articulate in written and oral form historical arguments about the nature of Victorian values, beliefs, and social policies.
- Analyze historical documents effectively.

Teaching Methods and Required Reading:

This course is divided between lectures and class discussions. You are expected to attend all the lectures and to participate in discussion. If you are shy or an introvert, please make an appointment to see me so that I can help you strategize about participating in a way that is comfortable for you and enhances your learning experience without causing undo stress.

On days identified on the syllabus as having a Reading Assignment, you will be responsible for the assigned reading in advance. Please read the material thoroughly and whenever possible bring it with you to class.

The following books are available to purchase in the bookstore. Please buy them early as unpurchased copies are returned to the publisher after 5 weeks:

Friederich Engels, *The Condition of the Working Class in England*
Ellen Ross, *Love and Toil: Motherhood in Outcast London, 1870-1918*
Bram Stoker, *Dracula*
Additional required readings are available on CANVAS, which can be accessed through your CIS account. Please photocopy or download these readings and bring them with you to class. Please notify me if anything has been scanned incorrectly.

You will be watching one film instead of attending class on October 2. This has been uploaded to a secure website. I will email you the link so that you can access them off any computer.

Assignments and Grading Policy:

Grades will be based on:

- Class participation includes attendance and participation in class discussions. (10%)
- 2 papers of 4-5 pages each. Specific guidelines will be handed out in class. (2 x 20%)
- A midterm (20%)
- A final exam (30%)

I use the following grading scale:

A=95-100%  A-= 90-94%  B+=85-89%  B=80-84%  B-=75-79%  C+=70-74%  C=65-69%
C-=60-64%  D=55-59%  D-=51-54%  F=50% or below

All assignments are due as indicated. I will take one grade off for each day late. Thus a B+ paper becomes a B paper if it is one day late. Do not slip papers under my office door. If you do not hand the assignment to me directly, please have it date stamped by one of the History Department office staff and then leave it in my box. Please keep a copy of every assignment in case the original goes missing.

Plagiarism and Classroom Policies:

Please familiarize yourself with the University’s Student Code that can be found online at: www.saff.utah.edu/code.html. This code outlines your rights and responsibilities.

I will not tolerate any form of plagiarism. If I discover that you have plagiarized or misrepresented your work to me in any way, I reserve my right to fail you for the course. I am also required to enter the incident into the University’s Academic Misconduct Database. The American Historical Association’s statement on plagiarism can be found at: http://www.historians.org/pubs/free/ProfessionalStandards.cfm#Plagiarism

Please turn your mobile phone off before entering the classroom. Do not text under the desk; it is rude.
Please do not surf the net during class time. Computers and other mobile devices should be used for taking notes only.

Please do your best to arrive on time. If you need to leave before the end of the class period, please let me know in advance and sit near the door.

I do not circulate my notes to students. If you miss a class, please ask a classmate to borrow notes.

Occasionally I may need to contact you via email. I will do this through the CIS system, which uses your Umail account. Please make sure that you check this account regularly or that you forward it to the email address that you use most often.

My office hours are by appointment so that I can accommodate your busy schedules. If you would like to meet with me, please email me with your preferred times or consult me before or after class to find a time that works for both of us.

Accommodations:

Some of the readings, lectures, films, or presentations in this course may include material that may conflict with the core beliefs of some students. Please review the syllabus carefully to see if the course is one that you are committed to taking. If you have a concern, please discuss it with me at your earliest convenience. For more information, please consult the University of Utah’s Accommodations Policy: [www.admin.utah.edu/facdev/accommodations-policy.pdf](http://www.admin.utah.edu/facdev/accommodations-policy.pdf).

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All written information in this course can be made available in alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.

Schedule of Lectures and Discussion:

**Introduction:**

August 24 Introduction: Nineteenth-Century Britain: An Overview

**Industry and Slavery:**

August 26 Lecture: Slavery and its Abolition
August 28 Reading Assignment:
James Walvin, “Freedom and Slavery and the Shaping of Victorian Britain”

August 31 Lecture: The Industrial Revolution
September 2 Lecture: Gender and Labour
September 4 Reading Assignment:

September 7 NO CLASS—LABOUR DAY

The Age of Reform:

September 9 Lecture: Parliamentary Reform and Chartism
September 11 Reading Assignment:
Thomas Babington Macaulay, “Parliamentary Reform”
Keith McClelland, "Rational and Respectable Men:  Gender, the Working Class, and Citizenship in Britain, 1850-1867"

September 14 Lecture: Crime, Policing, and Social Order
September 16 Lecture: New Poor Law
September 18 Reading Assignment:
V.A.C. Gattrell, “Crime, Authority and the Policeman State”

September 21 Lecture: The Anatomy Act
September 23 Lecture: Cholera, Medicine, and Public Health
September 25 Reading Assignment:
David Green, “Pauper Protests”
Christopher Hamlin, “Could You Starve to Death in England in 1839?”

Ireland:

September 28 Lecture: The Irish Famine
September 30 Lecture: Irish Nationalism
October 2 NO CLASS: watch the film: When Ireland Starved

PAPER #1 DUE OCTOBER 2 (11:59PM) VIA CANVAS

The Family and the Home:

October 5 Lecture: The Victorian Middle-Class Family
October 7 Lecture: Domesticity and Respectability
October 9 Reading Assignment:
John Gillis, “The Ritualization of Middle-Class Family Life in 19thc Britain”
Leonore Davidoff and Catherine Hall, “My Own Fireside”

October 12-16 NO CLASS—FALL BREAK

October 19 MIDTERM
October 21 Lecture: Working-Class Homes and Families
October 23 Reading Assignment: Ellen Ross, Love and Toil, pp. 3-165

Science and Religion:
October 26 Lecture: Victorian Science
October 28 Lecture: Victorian Christianity and Religious Alternatives
October 30 Reading Assignment:
Janet Browne, “Darwin in Caricature”
Jeffrey Cox, “Were Victorian Nonconformists the Worst Imperialists of All?”

**Empire and Imperial Society:**

November 2 Lecture: Colonizing India and Africa
November 4 Lecture: Race and Colonial Bodies
November 6 Reading Assignment:
Philippa Levine, "Venereal Disease, Prostitution, and the Politics of Empire”

November 9 Lecture: The Cultural Politics of Empire
November 11 Reading Assignment:
Bernth Lindfors, “Ethnological Show Business”
Brendan Gregory, “Staging British India”

November 13 NO CLASS

**The Victorian City:**

November 16 Lecture: New Urban Spaces
November 18 Lecture: Shopping and Slumming
November 20 Reading Assignment:
Erika Rappaport, “The Halls of Temptation: Gender, Politics, and the Construction of the Department Store in Late Victorian London”
Andrew Mearns, “The Bitter Cry of Outcast London”

**The Age of Anxiety:**

November 23 Lecture: Women’s Rights

November 25 NO CLASS—THANKSGIVING BREAK
November 27 NO CLASS—THANKSGIVING BREAK

November 30 Lecture: Victorian Sexuality I
December 2 Lecture: Victorian Sexuality II
December 4 Lecture: Immigration
**PAPER #2 DUE DECEMBER 4 (11:59PM) VIA CANVAS**

December 7 Lecture: Eugenics and Degeneration
December 9 Reading Assignment: Bram Stoker, *Dracula*

**FINAL EXAM WILL BE HELD IN THE CLASSROOM: Monday, December 14 10:30am-12:30pm**