

**English 490A/5490Z, Not So Eminent Victorians**  
**Fall 2013**  
**Prerequisite: Completion of core**  
**M, 1:30-4:00pm**

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**History 403/5403, Not So Eminent Victorians**  
**Fall 2013**  
**Prerequisite: NA**  
**M, 1:30-4:00pm**

**Dr. Steven Patterson**  
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### **Course Description**

A Special Topics course covering readings in British Victorian history and literature, emphasizing Victorian writers who are generally less well known than their more famous peers. You may take this course for ENG or HIS credit. In either case, the work load/exams will be identical. The only difference will be whether you take receive English or History credit.

### **Course Rationale**

Welcome to this study of Not So Eminent Victorians. This course provides an overview of selected writings by figures not as familiar to the general reader as their more famous contemporaries. The phrase “not so eminent” hinges on Lytton Strachey’s title— *Eminent Victorians*—of his popular and also infamous book that by table of contents alone dares to synthesize information about a select group of authors, presumably best representing the Victorian era since these figures make Strachey’s short list. His introductory disclaimers notwithstanding, such a limited selection assumes that fame and popular reputation determine the importance and thus merit of literary, historical, and cultural contributions that “best” define an era. Anyone tasked with selecting a few to represent the many knows not only the difficulty of narrowing down choices but also the imprecision of that selection as well. The aim of this course is to make you conversant in some of the Victorian writings placed out of the way on the lower shelf, writings as rich in their own vital representations of an era as those works by the famous and “well respected” authors. Obviously this course’s scope, then, far exceeds the range of a more traditional Victorian studies course, especially since this one has as its focus all the writings that didn’t make the list. For studying the works *not* chosen but important, our time together in one semester is exceedingly short and, therefore, our reading list will not permit extensive analysis. But we will have the opportunity to discuss some works in detail, and we will apply what we learn to our goal of describing the atmosphere of the times. We will try to answer the question of what the term “Victorian” means. We will examine the relevance of that era to ours. And, in a larger sense, we will attempt to reconstruct a Victorian worldview that undeniably shapes our own worldview today. Making sense of any historical division and any selection regarding “fair” representation stands as a difficult task always, but narrowing in on writers regarded as not making the first cut may pose some of the biggest challenges. This course revolves largely around that problem.

### **Course Objectives**

At the end of the course, you should be conversant in the texts and their context within the period. You should be able to demonstrate mastery of the texts orally and in writing,

supplementing your textual knowledge with the cultural perspectives presented in class. You should also know basic biographical information, literary styles, and literary theory as presented in class.

### **Course Requirements**

Your primary requirements will be to write two essay exams and one formal critical research paper. The exams will measure your grasp of the texts and the class material. Since this is a writing-based course, the exams will also call for strong, effective prose. The essay portions of the exams will be balanced by objective questions such as identification and short answer. The critical research paper will concentrate on a “lesser-known” Victorian issue, author, or text (more details to follow), though we are open to suggestions.

Your active participation in class will also have a significant impact on your final grade. We will be doing in-class exercises and short written exercises from time to time. Your attendance in class is required, and you are responsible for all assignment changes mentioned in class. We follow the attendance policy of Mississippi College; see “Attendance Regulations” in the catalog (note carefully that 4 absences, excused or unexcused, result in an F for the course). Your grade will be affected by tardiness for class and absences. I treat all absences seriously. We value your participation highly; please be on time and be prepared.

You will also take one map quiz on Britain, do one chronology (based on the one in *Understanding the Victorians*), write one thematic essay (graduate students will write two), and take occasional quizzes over the assigned reading as well. You will also give an oral presentation on your research project on December 9<sup>th</sup>.

All papers, unless announced otherwise, must be typed, double-spaced, with one-inch margins. Research papers must conform to MLA or Turabian guidelines. Late work will not normally be accepted (to be fair to all, late work that is accepted will be marked down in grade; see the policy for late papers at the end of this syllabus). **THE LAST DAY TO DROP A COURSE IS FRIDAY, October 25. STUDENTS CANNOT WITHDRAW AFTER THIS DATE WITH A “W” (PASSING) UNLESS THEY MEET THE CONDITIONS OUTLINED UNDER “WITHDRAWAL FROM COLLEGE” IN THE MC GRADUATE CATALOG. NOTE ALSO THAT A FULL REFUND FOR DROPPED COURSES IS PROVIDED ONLY IF THE COURSE IS DROPPED IN THE FIRST WEEK. SEE MC CATALOG FOR MORE INFORMATION.**

### **Academic Integrity**

“Mississippi College students are expected to be scrupulously honest. Dishonesty, such as cheating or plagiarism, or furnishing false information, including forgery, alteration or misuse of College documents, records or identification, will be regarded as a serious offense subject to severe penalty, including, but not limited to, loss of credit and possible dismissal” (**MC Catalog**).

## Grading

Map Quiz: 20-25 pts.  
 Chronology: 50 pts.  
 Quizzes: 10-25 pts.  
 Class participation: 50 pts.  
 Thematic essay: 50 pts.  
 Mid-term/Final Exam: 100 pts.  
 Research Presentation: 25 pts.  
 Research Project: 150 pts.

The grading scale is as follows: A=92-100, B=83-91, C=74-82, D=65-73, F=0-65

## Graduate Students

We will give you separate handouts, but in addition to writing two thematic essays (which may or may not be discussed in class), you will be expected to write longer essays/exams/research papers, as well as write two book reviews: one 19<sup>th</sup>-century primary source, and one secondary source. We will give you separate handouts for these assignments.

## Texts

--*Victorian Prose*, eds. Mundhenk and Fletcher, 1999 (Columbia UP)  
 --*Understanding the Victorians* by Susie L. Steinbach, 2012 (Rutledge)  
 --*The Burning of Bridget Cleary* by Angela Bourke, 1999 (Penguin)  
 --*Tom Brown's School Days* by Thomas Hughes  
 --*Green Mansions* by W.H. Hudson (Dover)  
 --*The Story of an African Farm* by Olive Schreiner (Dover)  
 --*A Passage to India* by E.M. Forster (Mariner)  
 --"Gunga Din" and *Other Favorite Poems* by Rudyard Kipling (Dover)  
 --*Rabindranath Tagore: An Anthology*, eds. Dutta and Robinson (St. Martin's Griffin)  
 --Additional readings to be assigned periodically (online selections)

## Schedule

(We reserve the right to change the schedule and/or add readings)

UTV=*Understanding the Victorians*

VP=*Victorian Prose*

Aug 26 Introduction (UTV, Intro., Ch. 1 and begin *Tom Brown's School Days*; read remainder by next class)

Sep 2 Labor Day: Class does not meet.

Sep 9 *Tom Brown's School Days*  
 UTV, Ch. 12  
 VP, Carlyle, "Sartor Resartus," p. 21; Smiles, "Self-Help," p. 199; Kingsley, "The Massacre of the Innocents!" p. 273.  
**Map Quiz**

- 16 *Burning of Bridget Cleary*  
 UTV, Ch. 1 and 6  
 VP, Shuttleworth, "The Moral and Physical Condition," p. 107; Mayhew, "Labour and the Poor," p. 181
- 23 *Burning of Bridget Cleary*  
 UTV, Ch. 4  
 VP, Disraeli, "Conservative and Liberal Principles," p. 115; Queen Victoria, "Great Exhibition," p. 267
- 30 *The Story of an African Farm*  
 UTV, Ch. 5,7  
 VP, Eliot, "Silly Novels by Lady Novelists," p. 287; Ellis, "The Women of England," p. 53; J.S. Mill, "The Subjection of Women," p. 121, Gordon, "Letters from Egypt," p. 319; Norton, "Letter to the Queen," p. 143; Greg, "Why are Women Redundant," p. 157
- Oct 7 Fall Break
- Oct 14 *The Story of an African Farm*  
 David Livingstone, "Missionary Travels and Researches in South Africa," p. 207  
**Chronology Quiz**
- 21 **Midterm**
- 28 *Green Mansions*  
 UTV, Ch. 3, Ch. 8  
 VP, Martineau, "Eastern Life" p. 93; Burton, "A Day Amongst the Fans," p. 313
- Nov 4 *Green Mansions*  
 Tagore selections  
 UTV, Ch. 9-10, tba
- 11 Tagore and Kipling selections  
 UTV, Ch. 11, tba
- 18 *A Passage to India*  
 UTV, Ch. 13,  
 VP, Gosse, "Father and Son," p. 409; Arnold, "Culture and Anarchy," p. 337  
 Spencer, "Progress," p. 295; Chambers, "Vestiges of the Natural History of Creation," p. 101; Huxley, "Agnosticism and Christianity," p. 364
- 25 *A Passage to India*

Dec	2	tba
	9	Research Project and Presentations Due!
	16	<b>Final Exam</b> (same time and place as our regular class)

### **English Department / Departmental Policies / Upper-level and Graduate**

**Attendance:** The English Department adheres to Mississippi College's attendance policy as outlined in the current *Undergraduate Catalog* and *Graduate Catalog*:

Class attendance is an essential part of university education, and students are expected to attend regularly and punctually all classes and laboratories for which they are registered. Cumulative absences may result in a lowered grade or loss of credit for the course. Tardiness is also subject to penalty, as is any failure to complete required class work on time. Although some specific requirements may vary according to the nature and structure of the course, the following guidelines summarize university policy:

1. Class attendance is required, and accurate records are kept.
2. Students must not accumulate excessive absences.

A student receives a grade of F in a course immediately upon accumulating the following number of absences, whether excused or unexcused:

- 12 in semester classes meeting 3 times per week
- 8 in semester classes meeting 2 times per week
- 4 in semester classes meeting 1 time per week
- 4 per session in the Accelerated Degree Program (ADP)
- 6 in summer day classes

For lesser numbers of absences, the student should expect a lowered grade in the course, with the maximum penalty of one letter grade for each week of absences (in a semester) or the equivalent.

*Absence Appeal.* If a student misses more than the number of class periods specified in university policy and believes that there are reasonable explanations for the absences, he/she may appeal the absences to the dean of the school in which the course is being taught. Students may obtain a Student Absence Appeal Form from the office of the appropriate dean.

**Academic Integrity Statement:** The English Department adheres to Mississippi College's academic integrity policy as outlined in the current *Undergraduate Catalog* and *Graduate Catalog*:

"Mississippi College students are expected to be scrupulously honest. Dishonesty, such as cheating or plagiarism, or furnishing false information, including forgery, alteration or misuse of University documents, records or identification, will be regarded as a serious offense subject to severe penalty, including, but not limited to, loss of credit and possible dismissal." See the current *Mississippi College Student Handbook* or University Policy 2.19 for specific information regarding penalties associated with dishonest behavior at Mississippi College.

**Late Paper Policy:** The English Department has established the following policy for late work submitted in upper-level and graduate English courses:

**No major papers or projects will be accepted after the due date** except in the case of your hospitalization or the death of an immediate family member; you may appeal your case, if necessary, to a departmental committee after filling out an appeals form available from the department chair.

**Grades for other assignments will be reduced** according to the following schedule:

- after time due and up to 24 hours late: one letter grade;
- after 24 hours and up to 48 hours late: two letter grades;
- after 48 hours and up to 72 hours late: three letter grades;
- after 72 hours, any paper turned in will be given an "F."

Failure to turn in an assignment will result in a grade of zero on that assignment

### **Students with Disabilities:**

In order for a student to receive disability accommodations under Section 504 of the Americans with Disabilities Act, he or she must schedule an individual meeting with the Director of Student Counseling Services **immediately upon recognition of their disability** (if their disability is known they must come in before the semester begins or make an appointment **immediately** upon receipt of their syllabi for the new semester). The student must bring with them written documentation from a medical physician and/or licensed clinician that verifies their disability. If the student has received prior accommodations, they must bring written documentation of those accommodations (example Individualized Education Plan from the school system).

Documentation must be current (**within 3 years**). The student must meet with SCS **face-to-face** and also attend two (2) additional follow up meetings (one mid semester before or after midterm examinations and the last one at the end of the semester). Please note that the student may also schedule additional meetings as needed for support through SCS as they work with their professor throughout the semester. Note: Students must come in **each semester** to complete their Individualized Accommodation Plan (example: MC student completes fall semester IAP plan and even if student is a continuing student for the spring semester they must come in again to complete their spring semester IAP plan).

Student Counseling Services is located in Alumni Hall Room #4 or they may be contacted via email at [christia@mc.edu](mailto:christia@mc.edu) or [rward@mc.edu](mailto:rward@mc.edu). You may also reach them by phone at **601-925-7790**.