

Department of History  
University of Western Ontario  
2017/18

History 9416A  
The Victorians at Home: 19<sup>th</sup> c Britain

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**Office hours:** Monday 1:30-2:30 or by appointment

This course examines the domestic experience of men and women in nineteenth-century Britain. It covers both physical premises, from urban slums through suburban villas and country estates, and their inhabitants both upstairs and down. Topics include the domestic ideal, gender roles, and master/servant relations.

Students will be expected to read the Steinbach text for general background knowledge, *plus at least one source from each weekly list. Reading Steinbach alone is not sufficient preparation for class and will not count toward your participation grade.* We will also collectively make our way through *Middlemarch*. Often cited as the greatest 19<sup>th</sup> c English novel, it addresses many of the themes highlighted in academic studies of the period.

**Required texts:** Susie Steinbach, *Understanding the Victorians* (Routledge, 2012)  
George Eliot, *Middlemarch* (1871-2; Penguin 2003)

Other readings will be available online or placed on reserve in Weldon Library.

**Grading scheme:**

Book review (due 16 Oct.)	15% (1200 words)
Seminar presentation	20%
Participation	25%
Essay (due 27 Nov.)	40% (5000 words)

## Learning outcomes

At the conclusion of this course a successful student will be able to:

- Evaluate evidence and assess historical claims.
- Assess historical approaches and methodologies.
- Articulate and defend historical ideas, arguments, and conclusions, both orally and in written prose.
- Engage with faculty and peers in discussion of both source material and the process of writing history.
- Contribute thoughtfully to debates about historical and methodological issues.
- Present historical knowledge effectively and engagingly.

## Schedule

### 1 (11 Sept.) Introduction

### 2 (18 Sept.) Whose home is it? 19<sup>th</sup> c demographics

Steinbach, chs. 4, 6

J. Belchem, *Industrialization and the Working Class: The English Experience, 1750-1900* (Aldershot, 1990)

A. Armstrong, *Farm Workers: A Social and Economic History 1770-1980* (London, 1988)

R.J. Morris, *Class, Sect and Party: The Making of the British Middle Class 1820-1850* (Manchester, 1990)

J.V. Beckett, *The Aristocracy in England 1660-1914* (Oxford, rev. ed. 1989)

D. Cannadine, *The Decline and Fall of the British Aristocracy* (New Haven, 1990)

### 3 (25 Sept.) Bricks and mortar: The Victorian house

Steinbach, ch. 1

E. Gauldie, *Cruel Habitations: A History of Working-Class Housing, 1780-1914* (London, 1974)

A.S. Wohl, *The Eternal Slum: Housing and Social Policy in Victorian England* (London, 1977)

M.J. Daunton, *House and Home in the Victorian City: Working-Class Housing 1850-1914* (London, 1983)

J. Flanders, *The Victorian House: Domestic Life from Childbirth to Deathbed* (London, 2003)

M. Girouard, *The Victorian Country House* (London, rev. ed. 1979)

Robert Kerr, *The Gentleman's House*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (London, 1865), Pt. I, chap. XI; Pt II

**4 (2 Oct.) Queen Victoria: Wife and mother**

Steinbach, ch. 8

C. Hibbert, *Queen Victoria: A Personal History* (London, 2000)

W.L. Arnstein, *Queen Victoria* (London, 2003)

M. Denison, *The Last Princess: The Devoted Life of Queen Victoria's Youngest Daughter* (London, 2008)

L. Hawksley, *The Mystery of Princess Louise: The Queen's Rebellious Daughter* (London, 2013)

C. Hibbert, ed., *Queen Victoria in her Letters and Journals: A Selection* (London, 1985)

***Thanksgiving***

**5 (16 Oct.) Keeping up appearances: The middle-class housewife**

Steinbach, chs. 5, 6

M.J. Peterson, *Family, Love and Work in the Lives of Victorian Gentlewomen* (Bloomington, 1989)

L. Davidoff and C. Hall, *Family Fortunes: Men and Women of the English Middle Class* (London, rev. ed. 2002), chaps. 7 & 8

Kathryn Hughes, *The Short Life and Long Times of Mrs Beeton* (London, 2005)

Sarah Stickney Ellis, *Women of England* (London, 1839); *The Wives of England* (London, 1843)

**Book review due**

**6 (23 Oct.) Masculinity and domesticity**

Steinbach, ch. 7

L. Davidoff and C. Hall, *Family Fortunes: Men and Women of the English Middle Class* (London, rev. ed. 2002), chaps. 9 & 10

J. Tosh, *A Man's Place: Masculinity and the Middle-Class Home in Victorian England* (London, 2007)

A. Milne-Smith, 'A Flight to Domesticity?: Making a Home in the Gentlemen's Clubs of London, 1880-1914', *Journal of British History* 45(4) (2006): 796-818

A. Milne-Smith, *Clubland: A Cultural History of Gender and Class in Late Victorian Britain* (New York, 2011)

**7 (30 Oct.) Bedroom and brothel: The Victorians and sex**

Steinbach, ch. 11

S. Marcus, *The Other Victorians: A Study of Sexuality and Pornography in Mid-Nineteenth-Century Britain* (New York, 1966)

J. Walkowitz, *Prostitution and Victorian Society: Women, Class and the State* (Cambridge, 1980)

Judith Walkowitz, *City of Dreadful Delight: Narratives of Sexual Danger in Late-Victorian London* (Chicago, 1992)

N. Attwood, *The Prostitute's Body: Rewriting Prostitution in Victorian Britain* (London, 2011)

J. Weeks, *Sex, Politics and Society: The Regulation of Sexuality since 1800* (Harlow, 2012)

R. Jennings, *A Lesbian History of Britain: Love and Sex between Women since 1500* (Oxford, 2007), introduction, chaps. 3-5

M. Vicinus, *Intimate Friends: Women who Loved Women, 1778-1928* (Chicago, 2004)

C. Upchurch, *Before Wilde: Sex Between Men in Britain's Age of Reform* (Berkeley, c2009)

H. Cocks, *Nameless Offences: Homosexual Desire in the Nineteenth Century* (London, 2003)

**8 (6 Nov.) Sculleries and scullery maids**

P. Horn, *The Rise and Fall of the Victorian Domestic Servant* (Stroud, Gloucs, 1990)

F.E. Huggett, *Life Below Stairs: Domestic Servants in England from Victorian Times* (Norwich, 1977)

L. Davidoff and R. Hawthorn, *A Day in the Life of a Victorian Domestic Servant* (London, 1976)

J. Gerard, *Country House Life: Family and Servants 1815-1914* (London, 1994)

T. May, *The Victorian Domestic Servant* (Princes Risborough, Bucks., 2003)

Isabella Beeton, *Mrs Beeton's Book of Household Management* (1861 ed.), chaps. I-II, XLI

**9 (13 Nov.) In the garden: Forcing nature ... and the farmers who fed cities**

G. Taylor, *Some Nineteenth-Century Gardeners* (London, 1951)

M. Allan, *William Robinson, 1838-1935: Father of the English Flower Garden* (London, 1982)

T. Carter, *The Victorian Garden* (London, 1984)

B. Elliott, *Victorian Gardens* (London, 1986)

J. Davies, *The Victorian Kitchen Garden* (London, 1987)

M. Willes, *The Gardens of the British Working Class* (New Haven, 2014)

A. Langlands, P. Ginn and R. Goodman, *Victorian Farm: Rediscovering Lost Skills* (London, 2008)

Henry Stephens, *The Book of the Farm* (London, 1844)

**10 (20 Nov.) Food and drink: The Victorian kitchen**

- J. Burnett, *Plenty and Want: A Social History of Diet in England from 1815 to the Present Day* (London, rev. ed. 1979), pts I & II  
S. Freeman, *Mutton & Oysters: The Victorians and their Food* (London, 1989)  
J. Davies, *The Victorian Kitchen* (London, 1989)  
A. Broomfield, *Food and Cooking in Victorian England: A History* (London, 2007)  
R. Cowen, *Relish: The Extraordinary Life of Alexis Soyer, Victorian Celebrity Chef* (London, 2006)

Isabella Beeton, *Mrs Beeton's Book of Household Management* (1861 ed.), chaps. III-XL

**11 (27 Nov.) A death in the family: Victorian mourning**

- P. Jalland, *Death in the Victorian Family* (Oxford, 1996)  
V. Bailey, *This Rash Act: Suicide across the Life Cycle in the Victorian City* (Stanford, 1998)  
S. Barnard, *To Prove I'm Not Forgotten: Living and Dying in a Victorian City* (Manchester, New York, 1990)  
J. Wolffe, *Great Deaths: Grieving, Religion, and Nationhood in Victorian and Edwardian Britain* (Oxford, 2000)  
J.S. Curl, *The Victorian Celebration of Death* (Detroit, 1973)  
J.-M. Strange, *Death, Grief, and Poverty in Britain, 1870-1914* (Cambridge, 2005)  
C. Arnold, *Necropolis: London and its Dead* (London, 2006)

**Essay due**

**12 (4 Dec.) Home away from home: British Victorian India**

Steinbach, ch. 3

- A. Blunt and R. Dowling, *Home* (Abingdon, 2006), ch. 4, 'Home, Nation and Empire'  
A. Blunt, 'Imperial Geographies of Home: British Domesticity in India, 1886-1925', *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers* 24(4) (1999): 421-40  
V. Gavaskar, 'Domesticating Empire: Figuring Womanhood at Home and Abroad'  
[http://www.clemson.edu/cedp/press/scr/articles/scr\\_46-1\\_gavaskar.pdf](http://www.clemson.edu/cedp/press/scr/articles/scr_46-1_gavaskar.pdf)

*The Englishwoman in India* (1864)

F.A.W. Steel and G. Gardiner, *The Complete Indian Housekeeper and Cook* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 1890)