The University of Western Ontario
HISTORY 9416A
The Victorians at Home: 19th c Britain
Fall/Winter 2019-20
Wednesdays, 1:30-3:30 pm, LwH 1218

Instructor: Allyson N. May
Office Hours: TBA
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Course Description:
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.

Course Syllabus:
Students with no background in British history are strongly encouraged to read the Steinbach text prior to starting the course (relevant chapters will also be provided on a weekly basis). You may also wish to read Middlemarch during the summer; we will collectively make our way through this famous nineteenth-century novel over the course of the term. Often cited as the greatest novel of the period, it addresses many of the themes we will be exploring, including marriage and gender relations. You will be required to submit – electronically – reading notes on Middlemarch throughout the term.

A common reading will be assigned for each week. Students will also be responsible for presenting (once in the term) a text chosen from one of the weekly lists provided via OWL. Your book review will be based on your presentation text.

Students are expected to attend Philippa Levine’s Goodman lectures. The Wednesday 2 October lecture will replace our normally scheduled meeting and attendance is not optional. There will be a sign-in sheet for that lecture. See https://history.uwo.ca/events/goodman_lectures.html for details.

At the conclusion of this course, apart from acquiring specific subject knowledge, 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.

Course Materials:

Recommended text: Susie Steinbach, *Understanding the Victorians* (Routledge, 2nd ed., 2016)

Required texts:
- George Eliot, *Middlemarch* (1871-2; any edition will be fine)

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

Methods of Evaluation:

Students must complete all coursework. Failure to complete all assigned coursework will result in a failing grade.

Seminar attendance is mandatory: you are expected to be present on a weekly basis, and to arrive prepared (ie, having done the reading assigned).

*Grading scheme:*

- Book review (due 16 Oct.) 15% (1200 words)
- Seminar presentation 10%
- General participation 25%
- Reading notes on *Middlemarch* (due 25 Sept; 23 Oct.; 13 Nov.; 4 Dec.) 10%
- Essay (due 27 Nov.) 40% (5000 words)

All course work must be submitted within the term. Electronic as well as paper submission is required for the book review and essay. A late penalty of 2% per day including weekends will be applied for the book review, *Middlemarch* reading notes, and the essay.

Additional Statements

*Academic Offences:*

Scholastic Offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitute a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:


All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (http://www.turnitin.com).
Accessibility Options:

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 519 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation. Information regarding accommodation of exams is available on the Registrar’s website: www.registrar.uwo.ca/examinations/accommodated_exams.html

Medical Issues

The University recognizes that a student’s ability to meet his/her academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Please go to:
https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.pdf
to read about the University’s policy on medical accommodation. In the event of illness, you should contact Academic Counselling as soon as possible. The Academic Counsellors will determine, in consultation with the student, whether or not accommodation should be requested. They will subsequently contact the instructors in the relevant courses about the accommodation. Once the instructor has made a decision about whether to grant an accommodation, the student should contact his/her instructors to determine a new due date for tests, assignments, and exams.

Students must see the Academic Counsellor and submit all required documentation in order to be approved for certain accommodation.

Please note: Please visit https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/academic_policies/index.html to view all updated academic policies regarding medical accommodations.

Plagiarism:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offense (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (http://www.turnitin.com).

Students are expected to retain all research notes, rough drafts, essay outlines, and other materials used in preparing assignments. In the unlikely event of concerns being raised about the authenticity of any assignment, your instructor may ask you to produce these materials; an inability to do so may weigh heavily against you.

The following rules pertain to the acknowledgements necessary in academic papers.

A. In using another writer's words, you must both place the words in quotation marks and acknowledge that the words are those of another writer.
You are plagiarizing if you use a sequence of words, a sentence or a paragraph taken from other writers without acknowledging them to be theirs. Acknowledgement is indicated either by (1) mentioning the author and work from which the words are borrowed in the text of your paper; or by (2) placing a footnote number at the end of the quotation in your text, and including a correspondingly numbered footnote at the bottom of the page (or in a separate reference section at the end of your essay). This footnote should indicate author, title of the work, place and date of Publication and page number. Method (2) given above is usually preferable for academic essays because it provides the reader with more information about your sources and leaves your text uncluttered with parenthetical and tangential references. In either case words taken from another author must be enclosed in quotation marks or set off from your text by single spacing and indentation in such a way that they cannot be mistaken for your own words. Note that you cannot avoid indicating quotation simply by changing a word or phrase in a sentence or paragraph which is not your own.

B. In adopting other writer's ideas, you must acknowledge that they are theirs.

You are plagiarizing if you adopt, summarize, or paraphrase other writers' trains of argument, ideas or sequences of ideas without acknowledging their authorship according to the method of acknowledgement given in 'At above. Since the words are your own, they need not be enclosed in quotation marks. Be certain, however, that the words you use are entirely your own; where you must use words or phrases from your source; these should be enclosed in quotation marks, as in 'A' above.

Clearly, it is possible for you to formulate arguments or ideas independently of another writer who has expounded the same ideas, and whom you have not read. Where you got your ideas is the important consideration here. Do not be afraid to present an argument or idea without acknowledgement to another writer, if you have arrived at it entirely independently. Acknowledge it if you have derived it from a source outside your own thinking on the subject.

In short, use of acknowledgements and, when necessary, quotation marks is necessary to distinguish clearly between what is yours and what is not. Since the rules have been explained to you, if you fail to make this distinction, your instructor very likely will do so for you, and they will be forced to regard your omission as intentional literary theft. Plagiarism is a serious offence which may result in a student's receiving an 'F' in a course or, in extreme cases, in their suspension from the University.

**Scholastic Offences**

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following web site:

www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

**Support Services**

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western, http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/ for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.
Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation.

If you have any further questions or concerns please contact, Heidi Van Galen, Administrative Officer, Department of History, 519-661-2111 x84963 or e-mail vangalen@uwo.ca.