

HISTORY 3414F
The Victorian Worldview: Nineteenth-Century Britain
Fall/Winter 2022-23
Wednesdays 11:30-1:30

Instructor: Professor Allyson N. May

Office Hours:
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Course Description:

This seminar examines the worldviews of men and women in nineteenth-century Britain: economic, political, social, and scientific, taking into account both conservative and radical perspectives. It also explores the domestic ideology commonly associated with the period, and the challenges posed to the Victorian domestic ideal.

Prerequisite(s):

2.0 courses in History at the 2200 level or above.

Unless you have either the prerequisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. The decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Antirequisite(s):

History 3432F/G, History 4423E, History 4420F/G

Course Syllabus:

The textbook listed below is intended to provide context for weekly primary source readings. Common readings will be assigned for discussion each week. We will also read and discuss one of the nineteenth century's most famous novels, George Eliot's *Middlemarch*, over the course of the term.

Learning outcomes

At the conclusion of this course successful students will have acquired a basic overview of how Victorian Britons understood the world in which they lived, and how they shaped that world. They will also be able to:

- Evaluate evidence and assess historical significance.
- 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:

Required texts: Susie Steinbach, *Understanding the Victorians* (Routledge, 2nd ed., 2016)
George Eliot, *Middlemarch* (1871-2; any edition will be fine)
Weekly primary source readings will be made available online.

Methods of Evaluation:

Document study (due TBD)	20% (2000 words)
General participation	20%
Reading notes on <i>Middlemarch</i>	25% (no word limit)
Research essay (due TBD)	35% (5000 words)

Please read the following carefully:

Students must submit and pass all of the written work in order to achieve a passing grade in the course. Penalties of 2% per day, including weekends, will be levied on late submissions of both the document study and research essay for which no extension has been granted. Late papers will also be graded without comment.

Extensions **must** be applied for via Academic Counselling.

The research essay will be on a topic of your choosing, but that topic must be approved prior to submission of the essay. Papers received without approval of the topic will not be graded.

You are expected to adhere to the specified word lengths for both the document study and research essay.

Seminar attendance is mandatory (see the learning outcomes above). You are expected to be in class and prepared to discuss weekly assigned texts. I will not accept notes on those texts in lieu of attendance.

The reading notes (4 sets) on *Middlemarch* are due via OWL immediately prior to the seminar in which they are discussed. Late submissions of these notes will not be accepted.

Additional Statements:

Please review the Department of History Course Must-Knows document, <https://www.history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/Docs/Department%20of%20History%20Course%20Must-Knows.pdf>, for additional information regarding:

- Academic Offences
- Accessibility Options
- Medical Issues
- Plagiarism
- Scholastic Offences
- Copyright
- Health and Wellness