

## FW 2023-24

<b>AP/EN 3550 6.0 (A)</b>	The Victorians
<b>Course Director:</b>	Professor Tina Choi (fall); winter TBA Email: tinayc@yorku.ca office hours: TBA
<b>Time:</b>	Lecture day and time
<b>Delivery Format:</b>	<b>SEMINAR</b>
<b>Description:</b>	<p>During Queen Victoria's long reign, writers like Charles Dickens, Elizabeth Barrett Browning, and Oscar Wilde, scientists like Charles Darwin, and artists like Dante Gabriel Rossetti produced some of the most memorable and influential works of the modern age. Through an examination of fiction, poetry, and essays from this period, we will investigate the major transformations that took place in British literature, history, and culture from the 1830s to 1900. As industrialization, urban growth, imperialism, and scientific research put Victorian Britain at the forefront of social and political change in Europe, they also raised numerous questions. The juxtaposition of rich and poor in major cities prompted Britons to ask, for example, about the origins of inequality in society, and about the responsibilities of individual and government in promoting social welfare. We will also examine literature's response to and participation in the key political and social debates of the period – over the significance of racial difference, the proper role for women, and the place of art in a capitalist society. We will attend to the period's transforming literary conventions and its subgenres, which include the "condition-of-England" novel, detective fiction, and the aestheticist essay. More generally, the course will consider the ways in which these works imagined individual and national experience, and the contributions of gender and social class to their representations.</p> <p>This course provides an overview of British literature of the Victorian period. Students will learn to read, think, and write critically about these works, and to contextualize them with relation to broad literary and artistic trends, historical events, and cultural influences of the period. English 3550 offers a foundation for more advanced study of nineteenth-century literature and cultural history, or for the continuing study of British literature of other periods.</p>
<b>Category:</b>	C
<b>Historical Requirement:</b>	Period II (1700-1900)
<b>Requirements: (tentative)</b>	close-reading essay 15% short essay (5-6 pages) 25% final essay (8 pages) 35%

	in-class test 10% in-class activities and participation 15%
<b>Reading List: (tentative)</b>	Charles Dickens, <i>Oliver Twist</i> ; Arthur Conan Doyle, selected Sherlock Holmes stories; Elizabeth Gaskell, <i>Mary Barton</i> ; H. Rider Haggard, <i>King Solomon's Mines</i> ; Thomas Hardy, <i>The Woodlanders</i> ; <i>The Norton Anthology of English Literature</i> (10 <sup>th</sup> edition, Volume E, or 10 <sup>th</sup> edition, Volume 2)
<b>Open To:</b>	YR 3/4