

8:432--Fall 2007: Seminar in Victorian Literature
TTh 1:05-2:20, E250AJB
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Office Hours: 11-12:30 TTh; and by appointment (5-0441)

THE VICTORIAN NOVEL IN THEORY

The following reading schedule paces us tentatively through the primary and some of the secondary readings for the term. A Reserve Book List will be supplemented by xerox masters as need and interest arises. Please buy the assigned editions at Prairie Lights to facilitate easy page references in our discussion. Frequent oral reports on relevant scholarship will help focus historical and theoretical discussion. A final seminar paper on a topic of your choosing--locating one (or more) Victorian novels in the discourse of its time and in the theory of fiction then and since--is due on Friday, Dec. 21, a week after our last class meeting. Work in progress reports during the last three weeks of the semester will give you a chance to air your ideas en route with the group.

wk 1
Aug 28 OVERVIEW

Aug 30 THE DECLINE INTO "PERSUASION": FROM OMNISCIENCE TO RHETORIC

Jane Austen, Persuasion (1819), Penguin ed., Chs. 1-10
Georg Lukács, Theory of the Novel, 1916 (MIT Press), 1971 preface and I, ch. 1

wk 2
Sept 4 INDIRECT DISCOURSE: FREE OR BOUND?

Persuasion, chs. 11-20
Lukács, I, ch. 2

Sept 6 CRISIS OF THE SIGNIFIER

Finish Persuasion, plus appendix with original ending
D.A. Miller excerpt, from Narrative and its Discontents: Problems of Closure in the Traditional Novel (1981) and Jane Austen, or the Secret of Style (2003)

wk 3
Sept 11 FRAME-UP

Emily Bronte, Wuthering Heights (1847), Riverside ed., Vol I
Michael McKeon, from The Rise of the English Novel, 1600-1740 (Johns Hopkins, 1987; 2003 reissue); and from Theory of the Novel: An Historical Approach (Hopkins, 2000)
Lukács, I, ch. 3

Sept 13 EPIC--TO CHRONICLE--TO DOMESTIC NOVEL

Wuthering Heights, II, 1-10
Lukács, I, ch. 4
Peter Brooks, "Freud's Masterplot," from Reading for the Plot

wk 4
Sept 18

HISTORY AS PROTAGONIST

Finish Wuthering Heights, II, chs. 11-20
Excerpts from Terry Eagleton
Lukács, I, ch. 5

Sept 20

THE OFFICES OF CIRCUMLOCUTION

Dickens, Little Dorrit (1855-57), Penguin ed., bk. I, 1-18
Lukács, II, Ch. 1

wk 5
Sept 25

SUBJECT, OBJECT, NOBODY

Little Dorrit, I, 19-36
Lukács, II, Ch. 2

Sept 27/
Oct 2

"THE ROMANTICISM OF DISILLUSIONMENT"

Reading Period—Finish Little Dorrit
(No class on these two dates)

wk 6
Oct 4

TOTALITY AND ITS DEFAULTS

Little Dorrit and the critics

wk 7
Oct 9

NARRATIVE CONTRACT

Wilkie Collins, The Moonstone (1868), Penguin ed.
First Period, Chs. 1-12

Oct 11

PARTICIPANT WITNESSING

The Moonstone, 13-23

wk 8
Oct 16

NARRATIVE SUBCONTRACTED

Finish The Moonstone

Oct 18

TELEPATHY AND NARRATIVE

George Eliot, "The Lifted Veil" (xerox)
Eliot, Daniel Deronda (1876), Penguin ed., Bk. I

wk 9
Oct 23

"MEETING STREAMS"

Deronda, Bks. II-III

Oct 25

GENRE IN CRISIS (I): THE BILDUNGSROMAN

Deronda, Bks. IV-V
Franco Moretti, from The Way of the World

wk 10
Oct 30

EPOS INTO ETHOS: THE WORK OF TRANSFERENCE

Deronda, Bks. VI-VIII

Nov 1

"NOBODY" REDIVIVUS

Dickens, Our Mutual Friend (1864-5), Penguin ed., Bk. I

wk 11
Nov 6

EPIC TO SATIRE: THE RISE AND FALL OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE

Our Mutual Friend, Bk. II

Nov 8

THE IMPERIUM OF "SHARES"

OMF, Bk. III

wk 12
Nov 13 ECONOMIES OF DESIRE

OMF, Bk. IV; essays by Regina Gagnier, Catherine Gallagher, Mary Poovey

wk 13
Nov 20-22

THANKSGIVING RECESS

wk 14
Nov 27 POST-EPIC, POST-PASTORAL

Thomas Hardy, Tess of the d'Urbervilles (1896), Bedford ed.,
chs. 1-20

Nov 29 "THE ACHE OF MODERNISM"
Tess, chs. 21-40

wk 15
Dec 4

PERSPECTIVISM

Tess, chs. 41-59
Selected essays from Bedford edition

Dec 6 GENRE IN CRISIS (II): THE BILDUNGSROMAN

Joseph Conrad, Lord Jim (1900), chs. 1-15

wk 16

Dec 11 RETURNS OF THE POLITICAL REPRESSED

Lord Jim, chs. 16-30
Fredric Jameson, "Romance and Reification," from The Political Unconscious

Dec 14 "THE PRIVILEGED MAN": FRAME TALES REFRAMED

Finish Lord Jim, chs. 31-45