

ENG 6945/LBS5900: Dickens & Victorian Travel Narratives

Fall 2018

The Department of English

Oakland University

W 6:00-9:20 p.m.

Professor N. Cole

521 O'Dowd Hall

cole@oakland.edu

248 370-2270

Office Hours: 4:30-5:30 W

& by appointment

TEXTS: REQUIRED:

James Buzard

THE BEATEN TRACK Clarendon Oxford UP 19930-19-812276-4

Charles Dickens

LITTLE DORRIT Penguin

E.M. Forster

A PASSAGE TO INDIA Harcourt Press 978-0156711425

H.Rider Haggard

SHE Broadview Press

Mary Kingsley

TRAVELS IN WEST AFRICA National Geographic

Moodle: selected secondary critical essays and short stories (PRINT THESE OUT AND BRING TO CLASS)

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Reading & appreciation of primary texts of Victorian travel narratives
2. Honing of critical thinking and writing skills in graduate-level essays
3. Lively and informed discussion of assigned reading
4. Developing understanding of the travel sketch genre and the trope of travel in Victorian fiction and travel narrative
5. Continued development of critical thinking, research and presentation skills

GRADING

Lead class discussion of novel	10%
Lead class discussion of critical essay	10%
Homework & quizzes	20%
Paper 1	20%
Paper 2	20%
Final Exam	20%

COURSE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES [Please read carefully]

TEXTS AND CLASS Materials: ALWAYS bring your syllabus, textbooks, and Moodle assignments (printed out), with you to class. Bring well-sharpened pencils or dark ink pens and paper as well. Be reading to share your ideas and hear the ideas of others.

CLASS PARTICIPATION: Show your intellectual curiosity and engagement with the material by asking questions and expressing your ideas—that's what brings us together each week. You will be best prepared if you take notes on assigned literary texts and critical reading, so mark your texts with

highlighters, sticky notes, or marginalia. With these materials at hand in class, you will be ready to comment, inquire, and complete in-class quizzes and short essay writing.

HOMEWORK AND IN-CLASS WRITING: (20%): Think of these as a way to stretch your intellectual and critical thinking muscles and take chances by trying out new ideas. Both homework and inclass writing assignments will be short essay.

LEADING DISCUSSION (10%): Starting in Week 3, each student will lead two discussions: 1): a discussion of a specific chapter in *LITTLE DORRIT*, and 2) a discussion of one of our assigned secondary readings. To prepare for this, see the instruction sheet at the end of syllabus.

PAPER #1 (20%): 5-6 pp. in length (exclusive of Works Cited), MLA formatted paper, focusing on primary texts with limited use of assigned critical readings. Show your critical thinking and writing stuff.

PAPER #2 (20%): For this 10-12 pp. (exclusive of Works Cited) MLA formatted paper, you may do additional (but limited) research. You will turn in a copy to the professor, AND you will provide a precis or abstract of your paper, with copies for each class colleague.

FINAL EXAM (20%): The final exam will be a take-home exam for which you may use your texts and articles. This exam must be completed independently of other students, meaning that you may not consult with anyone, discuss or share your work. **DO YOUR OWN THING.** You can use the OED but no other sources beyond those assigned for class. It will be comprehensive, covering all course material. You will write about the genre, its examples, and critical theory, as well as time and talent allow. Essay questions to be given to students in advance.

ATTENDANCE: More than 2 absences (two weeks of class) will lower your final course grade, unless you have a medical emergency. Please advise me if you have an emergency or health issue so I can work with you.

COURTESY: Please exercise basic courtesy in listening attentively to the comments of other students and to the professor. I am confident my students will show respect and sensitivity to their colleagues in class as we enjoy this lively genre and its complexities this semester. Please put cell phones on vibrate in class so your phone does not ring during class. Please take notes by hand—no laptops please.

ACADEMIC CONDUCT: Plagiarism, the borrowing of writing from any source without proper acknowledgment is considered a serious breach of academic conduct and will result in disciplinary action by the University Senate's Academic Conduct Committee. Likewise, collaboration or consultation on the final exam will also be considered a violation of academic conduct policy. The Oakland University policy on academic conduct will be strictly followed with no exceptions. See catalog under Academic policies and procedures.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS: Students with disabilities who may require special considerations should make an appointment with the campus Disability Support Services. Students should also bring their needs to the attention of the instructor as soon as possible.

Schedule

(may have to be adjusted to meet class needs. Students will be notified on Moodle of any changes, so check regularly)

Week 1
Sept.5

Introduction to Travel Narratives and Dickens
Little Dorrit (1857): chapters 1-3

Week 2
Sept. 12

Travel, Tourism, and the Victorian Travel Sketch Genre
In-class writing
Little Dorrit, chs.4-6

James Buzzard: "Introduction" from *The Beaten Track* pp.1-17

John Drew (journal article): "Voyages Extraordinaires: Dickens's Travelling Essays and *The Uncommercial Traveller*"

John Urry (book chapter): "*The Tourist Gaze*"(1-15)

Dickens travel sketches: "Travelling Abroad," "Night Walks" "Our Watering Place"

Short story: "The Tuggses at Ramsgate"

Week 3
Sept 19

Travel in Europe and Prison Spaces at Home
Homework: tba

Little Dorrit, chs. 7-9

Buzard, *The Beaten Track*: ch.3 "Tourism and Anti-Tourism"

Hollington: "Dickens, Household Words, and the Paris Boulevards" from (*Dickens, Europe and the New World*)

Dickens: "Our French Watering Place"

Trollope: "The Family That Goes Abroad Because It's the Thing to Do"; "The Man Who Travels Alone"; & "The Unprotected Female Tourist"

Week 4

Sept.26

Victorian Train Travel

In-class writing
Gina Dorré: "Handling the 'Iron Horse': Dickens, Travel and Derailed Masculinity in *The Pickwick Papers*."

Wolfgang Schivelbusch: excerpts from *The Railway Journey: the Industrialization of Time and Space in the Nineteenth Century*, tba

Dickens: excerpts, Moodle: *Dombey and Son*, "The Signalman"
Letters on the Staplehurst train wreck (*Letters of Charles Dickens* vol. 11)

Oliphant: "Story of a Wedding Tour"

- Week 5** Little Dorrit: Circumlocutions
 Oct 3 *Little Dorrit*, Book the First: chs.10-26
 Paper #1 due
- Week 6** Little Dorrit: 'Keeping Select'
 Oct 10 *Little Dorrit* Book the First:chs.27-36
 In class writing
- Week 7** Little Dorrit: the Dorrits' Grand Tour
 Oct. 17 *Little Dorrit* Book the Second: chs.1-11
 Dickens: *Pictures from Italy*: "An Italian Dream"
 Buzard: "A Scripted Continent: British and American Travel Writers
 in Europe, c.1825-1875" in *The Beaten Track*, pp.155-172
- Week 8** Little Dorrit and Social Outlawry
 Oct.24 Homework
 Little Dorrit Book the Second:chs.12-21
 Dickens: *Pictures from Italy*: "Rome"
 Buzard: "Travel writers in Europe" continued, pp.172-216
- Week 9** Travelling Gothic Style
 Oct.31 Collins: "Mad Monkton"; "The Dead Hand"; "A Terribly Strange Bed"
 Little Dorrit Book the Second:chs.22-27
- Week 10** Finish Little Dorrit
 Nov. 7 *Little Dorrit*, Book the Second: chs. 28-34 (end)
 In class writing
- Week 11** Male Quest Romance
 Nov.14 Homework tba
 H.Rider Haggard, *She*
 Tania Zulli: Part 2: "Rider Henry Haggard"
- Week 12** Male Quest Romance
 Nov.21 *Mountains of the Moon* (dir.Bob Rafelson, 1990)
 Mary Louise Pratt: ch.9 from *Imperial Eyes: Travel Writing and
 Transculturation* pp.201-227
 Homework: Write a short (400 word essay) applying concepts and information
 from Pratt to ideologies and images in *Mountains of the Moon*
- Week 13** Travel Memoir and Modernist Travel Novel
 Nov. 28 Mary Kingsley: excerpts from *Travels in West Africa* (1897)
 Moodle: Elaine Freedgood: ch.5: "A field for enterprise: the memoirs of David
 Livingstone and Mary Kingsley"(132-169)
 E.M. Forster: *A Passage to India* (1925) First half of novel
- Week 14** Colonialism and Britons in India

A Passage to India

Final paper due *and* sharing of abstracts. Bring copies for Prof. and class colleagues.

Final Exam: Due in hard copy turned into my office, date tba