

HIS 362G Topics in European History: The World of the Victorians
Unique Number: 40060
Spring 2014

UTC3.112: MW: 3:30-5:00 p.m.

Instructor: Philippa Levine
philippa@austin.utexas.edu
Office: HRC 3.202B
Office Phone: (512) 232-1236

Office Hours:
Wednesday, 2:15 – 3:15 p.m.
Friday, 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.
and by appointment

Teaching Assistant: Jack Loveridge
loveridge@utexas.edu
Office: Caffé Medici (2nd Floor)

Office Hours:
Tuesday, 2:15 – 3:15 p.m.
Thursday, 2:15 – 3:15 p.m.
and by appointment

Imagine a world without shampoo, toothpaste, and telephones, without showers or televisions, but where the air was nonetheless polluted and the cities were noisier and dirtier than today. Imagine a world in which a woman walking alone was considered unrespectable, and in which few white-collar occupations were open to her. Imagine a world in which a speed of 30 miles per hour was breathtaking but in which letters were routinely delivered the day they were mailed. Welcome to the world of the Victorians.

This course will introduce you to Britain in the nineteenth century, and to the empire it was busy building at that time. It will examine the paradoxes and contradictions that characterize nineteenth-century British society, and explore what the idea of “being British” might be said to mean at this time.

Required Texts

Many of our readings are available online and detailed in the course outline below. They are mostly quite short.

There is one required hard copy text for this class: Susie L. Steinbach, *Understanding the Victorians: Politics, Culture and Society in Nineteenth-Century Britain* (Routledge, 2012 paperback). The textbook is primarily a background text for reference, providing additional information and clarification. Regard it as a useful tool for verifying facts and expanding your knowledge of particular topics. It will **not** provide sufficient material for you to earn good grades, particularly in the case of your term paper. Copies are available at the Co-Op.

We will be using student response clicker technology throughout this course. You will need an i>Clicker2 polling device (also available at the Co-Op) and you must have it with you at all lectures. You will not need it on exam days. This device can be used in any class which employs this technology, and should last you for your entire UT career. Instructions on how to register your i>Clicker are available on the left-hand side of the main page of the Canvas course site. Please register your device no later than **January 28**. There will be a grade penalty for registering later than that date.

Course Mechanics

Please ensure you have turned off any pagers, cell phones, or other noise-emitting devices before coming to class. If you disturb a class period with any such device, you will be required to leave for the remainder of the day's class. A second such disturbance will reduce your final grade in the course by a full grade fraction.

This class uses Canvas, a Web-based course management system with password-protected access at <http://canvas.utexas.edu/>. If you need support in using Canvas, contact the ITS Help Desk at 475-9400, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Course Website

The Canvas site contains a copy of the syllabus, advice about writing, exam-taking and a breakdown of minimum grading requirements, as well as an FAQ. Class announcements will be posted to this site. It will be your responsibility to check the website frequently to make sure you know what's going on. All posted class document (assignments, syllabus and so on) may be accessed through the Modules section of the site.

Assignments and Grading Policies

Grading will be on the following basis, and will include +/- grades

Assessment in this course is based on two mid-term in-class exams and one research paper. Each of the exams is worth 25% of the total grade, and the research paper is worth 40%. The remaining 10% of your grade will reflect participation in the class.

Your research paper will be due on **Friday May 1 by 4 p.m.** and you will need to deliver online copy to the Canvas class website. Details will be posted to Canvas.

Assignments handed in late will be marked down by a grade fraction for each **24 hour** period beyond their due date and time, and no papers will be accepted more than **48 hours** beyond their original due date. It is important to know this, since you will automatically fail the course unless you complete **every** assignment and exam.

In grading your assignments, we will consider depth of analysis (do you really try to think carefully about the implications of the readings, or do you simply summarize or state the most obvious points about the texts?), ability to synthesize, insights from a variety of different texts, and quality of writing.

Ensure that, if you are modeling your response on someone else's work, you **cite** that authority and **acknowledge** your use of the work. If you're not sure if you're getting it right, then ask for help. The plagiarism quiz you will take in January is designed to help you figure out how to navigate this issue.

The Undergraduate Writing Center (FAC 211, 471-6222, offers free, individualized, expert help with writing for any UT undergraduate, by appointment or on a drop-in basis. Any undergraduate enrolled in a course at UT can visit the UWC for assistance with any writing project: uwc.utexas.edu

Grading Scale:

A	93-100
A-	90-92
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82

C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	63-66
D-	60-62
F	Below 60

Grades ending in .5 or above will be rounded up; grades ending in .49 and below will not.

Academic Conduct

Students are required to uphold the standards of academic honesty set by the University of Texas at Austin. The standards and regulations for scholastic dishonesty are available online at: <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/scholdis.php>

All work must be your own and all cases of plagiarism will automatically result in a failing grade for the course as a whole. There will be no deadline extensions or incomplete grades unless the instructor is presented with a legitimate excuse (e.g. a medical issue) in advance of the due date.

Please ensure you have taken the plagiarism test posted on Canvas (in the Assignments section in Modules) on or before **January 29**. Though your score will have no effect on your grade, failure to take the test by this date will lower your final grade by a grade fraction.

Daily Scribble

Every Monday and Wednesday (other than exam days), please bring with you to class a question you would like to raise or ask about the topics and readings for that week, or a comment on one of the readings, discussions, or lectures. This scribble takes the form of hard copy paper which should bear your name and the date as well as your question(s) and comments(s). These are not graded, but continued failure to respond will result in the lowering of your grade. These "daily scribbles" will also be used as proof of attendance. While it is fine to ask about something in a previous class that you have not understood, please do not use this exercise exclusively for that purpose; the point is to demonstrate that you have thought about the readings and the topic for the week in question.

Students with Disabilities

If you have a documented disability and require academic accommodations, please contact Services for Students with Disabilities at 512-471-6259 (voice) or 1-866-329-3986 (Video Phone) as soon as possible. If you have accommodations for exams, please remember that it is your responsibility to remind the instructor of any testing accommodations five **business** days before each exam.

Religious Holy Days

By UT Austin policy, you must notify me of your pending absence **at least fourteen days** prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, I will give you an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

Course Outline

Week 1

January 13: **Introduction**

January 15: **Research techniques and resources**

Week 2

January 20: no class -- Martin Luther King Day

January 22: **Overview of British Culture**

Week 3: The Political Scene

January 27/29

Steinbach, chapters 2 and 8

<http://www.victorianweb.org/history/polspeech/conservative.html>

Week 4: Inside the Victorian Household

February 3/5

<http://www.westminster.gov.uk/services/libraries/archives/victorian-clerk/archive/march/>

<http://ebooks.adelaide.edu.au/b/beeton/isabella/household/chapter1.html>

Week 5: Wealth and Poverty

February 10/12

Steinbach, chapters 4 and 6

<http://www.victorianweb.org/history/ashley.html>

http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/victorians/bsurface_01.shtml

<http://web.archive.org/web/19990203205748/http://avery.med.virginia.edu/~eas5e/Irish/West.html>

Week 6: Building the Victorian City

February 17/19

Steinbach, chapter 1

'Observations on the Filth of the Thames,' a letter to the Editor of the Times of London (July 7, 1855) by Professor Michael Faraday (available on Canvas)

<http://www.victorianweb.org/history/chadwick2.html>

Week 7: EXAM WEEK

February 24: Revision Session

February 26: IN CLASS EXAM

Week 8: Law, Crime and Punishment

March 3/5

Steinbach, chapter 9

http://www.utas.edu.au/library/companion_to_tasmanian_history/C/Convicts.htm

<http://cartome.org/panopticon2.htm> (read letters II and V)

You will find some illustrations of Bentham's prison architecture on Canvas

Week 9: Science and Medicine

March 17/19

Steinbach, chapter 13

http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/victorians/brunel_isambard_01.shtml
<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1867lister.asp>

Week 10: Religion and Evolution: The Clash of Ideas

March 24/ 26

Steinbach, chapter 12

<http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/mod/1798malthus.asp>

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1871darwin.asp>

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1860wilberforce-darwin.asp>

<http://www.darwinproject.ac.uk/darwin-and-the-church-article>

Week 11: The Wider World: Britain's Imperial Possessions

March 31/April 2

Steinbach, chapter 3

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1883hebrides.asp>

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1893lugard.asp>

Week 12: Fun and Games Victorian-style

April 7/9

Steinbach, chapter 5 and 10

Week 13: EXAM WEEK

April 14: Revision Session

April 16: IN CLASS EXAM

Week 14: Men and Women

April 21/23

Steinbach, chapter 7

<http://www.indiana.edu/~lettrs/vwwp/norton/letter.html>

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1842womenminers.asp>

http://www.vam.ac.uk/collections/fashion/features/18_19_century_fashion/index.html

<http://webapp1.dlib.indiana.edu/vwwp/view?docId=VAB7170&doc.view=print>

Week 15: Race, Sex and the Victorians

April 28/30

Steinbach, chapter 11

<http://www.historyofwomen.org/cdactspetition.html>

<http://www.columbia.edu/cu/web/eresources/exhibitions/sw25/bentham/index.html>

