



A M B R O S E

EN 490 – Independent Study in the Victorian Long Poem (3)

Winter 2012

Dr. Tim Heath

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Class Times: weekly

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Class Location: TBD

Office Hours: TBD

Course Description

This course examines the long poem of the Victorian era (1837-1901). Long poems will be examined in conjunction with several shorter narrative and lyric pieces to analyze the multiple and competing poetics of the long poem as it was practiced during the Victoria period. Key authors studied include Alfred, Lord Tennyson, Robert Browning, Elizabeth Barrett Browning, Algernon Charles Swinburne, Christina Rossetti, Gerard Manley Hopkins, Thomas Hardy, Matthew Arnold, Alice Meynell, and Dante Gabriel Rossetti. Examination of key critical and theoretical studies will also form a significant part of the course content.

Course Objectives

- To examine poetic works by major writers of the nineteenth century with careful regard to the metrical, formal, and rhetorical devices at work in each text and the effect of these features on each piece as a whole
- To study the ways in which the Victorians developed the poetics of the long poem according to the predominant cultural concerns of the era
- To investigate the Victorian fascination with style and aesthetics in poetry so that the elements of particular poems can be analyzed according to the ways in which they establish and challenge these patterns
- To contextualize and analyze the poetry of this age as a successor of Romanticism and an antecedent of Modernism in order to recognize literary developments both within and between movements
- To apply a variety of interpretive strategies in order to understand more fully the texts studied

Course Outcomes

- Enhanced facility with prosodic analysis through exercises in practical criticism
- Intensive inquiry in a specialized area through careful and thorough research
- Effective synthesis of research findings in an extended writing project
- Enhanced critical and theoretical facility with a difficult and challenging genre
- Presentation of research findings in a verbal delivery format

Course Requirements

Research Paper (25-30 pages)	40%
Presentation	30%
Practical Criticism (four @ 5% each)	20%
Participation	10%

Required Texts and Reading

Tennyson, Lord Alfred. *Idylls of the King; In Memoriam*
 Browning, Robert. *The Ring and the Book*; selected longer works
 Browning, Elizabeth Barrett. *Aurora Leigh*
 Swinburne, Algernon Charles. *Tristram of Lyonesse*

Arnold, Matthew. "The Scholar Gypsy"; "Stanzas from the Grande Chartreuse"; "Dover Beach"
 Rossetti, Christina. "Goblin Market"; "The Prince's Progress"; "A Ballad of Being"
 Rossetti, Dante Gabriel. Selected sonnets from *The House of Life*
 Hopkins, Gerard Manley. "A Vision of the Mermaids"; "Spring and Death"; "Barnfloor and Winepress"; "The Wreck of the Deutschland"; "Il Mystico"; selected sonnets
 Hardy, Thomas. "Wessex Heights"; "A Sign Seeker"; "Channel Firing"
 Meynell, Alice. "Builders of Ruins"; "A Song of Derivations"

Hughes, Linda K. *The Cambridge Introduction to Victorian Poetry*. 2010.
 Schad, John. *Victorians in Theory: From Derrida to Browning*. 2009.
 Riede, David G. *Allegories of One's Own Mind: Melancholy in Victorian Poetry*. 2005.

Proposed Course Schedule

January

17 – long poem poetics and Victorian context
 24 – Tennyson
 31 – Tennyson

February

7 – Browning
 14 – Brownings
 28 – Browning

March

6 – Browning (Denae 1.143-173)
 12 – (Swinburne)
 13 – Rossettis
 20 – Hopkins
 27 – (Arnold)

April

3 – (Hardy)
 10 – (Meynell)

