**MA in Victorian Literature, Art, and Culture 2012-13:**

# EN5831 Victorian London

# Coursebook

# Autumn Term 2012

C**ourse Leader**. Dr Sophie Gilmartin

**Tutors**. This course is taught by a variety of experts across the range of expertise of the MA. Subject specific queries should be addressed to specific tutors; more general issues or questions taken to the course leader.

**Scope**: This course seeks to introduce students to the study of Victorian culture at MA level via an interdisciplinary series of seminars focusing on the developing cultural representations and presences of London in the nineteenth-century.

**Aims of the Course**: This course aims to act as a hub for the various other courses on the MA, providing a point of coherence for the interdisciplinary study of Victorian Culture. It aims to introduce students to the theories and methods of a variety of humanities disciplines through the medium of an in-depth study of the literature, history, geography, and visual culture of nineteenth-century London. It invites students to reflect critically on their own approaches to the material studied through an engagement with both primary materials and a variety of recent secondary material. The ten weeks of the course cover specific texts and genres in seminar discussion and/or lectures. Students will be invited to deliver presentations and expected to contribute to seminar discussion.

**Learning Outcomes**:

On completing this course students should be able to:

* Demonstrate an advanced knowledge of the literatures, cultures and history of nineteenth-century London.
* Interpret a variety of nineteenth-century novels, documents of social exploration, works of art and other representations of nineteenth-century London in a well-informed manner and with some originality.
* Evaluate critically current research and scholarship on nineteenth-century London from a variety of disciplinary perspectives.
* Apply such complex knowledge with independent judgement in the process of research, essay writing and oral presentations.
* Understand the necessity of critical self-reflection and orientation in preparation for completing a Masters thesis.

**Teaching and Learning Methods**: Teaching involves ten 2 hour seminars, two formal tutorial sessions advising on essay planning and giving feedback on draft submissions. Students will be expected to offer seminar presentations and will be invited to schedule an appointment with the tutor concerned to receive feedback on these.

**Method of Assessment**: The end of course essay is weighted at 17.5% of the overall degree and is examined by a 5000 to 6,500 word essay, submitted in draft on the first day of the Spring Term and revised for final submission on the first day of the Summer Term. Coursework essays may be based on seminar presentations, or be original pieces of work. All students are advised to confirm essay titles and subjects with the course leader towards the end of the term. Some possible suggestions for questions and topics are listed later in this booklet.

**Victorian London Seminar Schedule Autumn Term 2011-12**

PLEASE NOTE: LINKS TO SOME PRIMARY TEXTS, DIRECTED FURTHER READING, AND DISCUSSION STRANDS WILL BE POSTED ON THE MOODLE SITE FOR THIS COURSE AND UPDATED AS THE COURSE PROGRESSES. PLEASE LOGIN AS PART OF YOUR WEEKLY SEMINAR PREPARATION.

1. **Introduction: London and Cultural Topographies; the *Illustrated London News* (1857). (Adam Roberts)**

**Preparation:** please read the issue of the *Illustrated London News* distributed at induction and available via Moodle.

**Discussion Topics:**

* Writing and Empire
* Reading in the Nineteenth-Century
* Literacy and Journalism
* Research Skills: Accessing C19th Periodicals and Newspapers Online
* Planning seminar presentations this term.
1. **Reading London I: Charles Dickens, *Oliver Twist* (1837-1839) (Adam Roberts)**

**Preparation:** In the seminar we are going to discuss the novel’s topography, and in particular its representation of London. When you read *Oliver Twist*, pay particular attention to its locations, the movement of characters and the descriptions of land- and cityscapes.

1. **Reading London II: Henry Mayhew, *London Labour and the London Poor* (1851). (Sophie Gilmartin)**

**Preparation:** For this week’s class on [Henry Mayhew’s London Labour and the London Poor](http://books.google.com/books?id=Q4oBAAAAQAAJ&pg=PP7&dq=Mayhew+London+Labour&ie=ISO-8859-1&output=html&source=gbs_selected_pages&cad=6), please read as much as possible of that text, but make sure you have read for class the following sections: the ‘Watercress Girl’ (p. 64 and following in the Penguin edition); ‘Statement of a Photographic Man’ (p. 335 and following in the Penguin edition); ‘The Doll’s-Eye maker’ (p. 344 and following in the Penguin edition). Please also read Edgar Allan Poe’s short story [‘The Man of the Crowd’](http://www.cf.ac.uk/encap/skilton/fiction/poe01.html) (available online), the opening of Bleak House, and the interview with ‘Charley’ in the ‘Bell Yard’ chapter of Bleak House. Two essays of interest are [E.P. Thompson’s ‘The Political Education of Henry Mayhew’ Victorian Studies, September 1967](http://www.jstor.org/stable/3825892), and [Christopher Herbert’s ‘Rat Worship and Taboo in Mayhew’s London’, Representations 23 (Summer 1988)](http://www.jstor.org/stable/2928564). [SG]

1. **Reading London III: Charles Dickens, *Bleak House* (Juliet John)**

**Preparation**: please read *Bleak House* – we will expect you to have finished the novel by the first seminar.

**Discussion Topics**:

* London; mud; geology.
* Gender, the city, and the double narrative
* Research Skills: developing research questions; how to identify further reading using MLA, JSTOR; good research and citations practices.
1. **Reading London IV: Charles Dickens, *Bleak House* (Juliet John)**

**Preparation**: please come to seminar having identified and read at least two peer-reviewed articles on *Bleak House* that have taken your interest. Upload the bibliographic details to Moodle with a brief annotation summarising the article in order to create a shared learning resource for the group.

**Discussion Topics:**

* Contagion, disease
* Miasma and dirt.
1. READING WEEK: NO SEMINAR – PLEASE ENSURE YOU HAVE REGISTERED AS A USER OF SENATE HOUSE LIBRARY AND TRY TO VISIT THE LIBRARY BY THE NEXT WEEK’S SEMINAR. FORMAL GROUP RESEARCH TRAINING VISITS AT SENATE HOUSE WILL BE SCHEDULED FOR TERM II.

**7. Poetry and/of London. (Vicky Greenaway)**

An anthology of poems by different authors - including George Eliot 'In a London Drawingroom'; Ada Smith 'In City Streets'; Amy Levy 'A London Plane-Tree' - will be posted on the course Moodle site in advance of the term.

Topics for discussion:

- pastoral and urban tropes

- self and the street; women, power, and the experience of city living

- space and place

**8. James Thomson, *City of Dreadful Night* (any edition - Kindle and online editions are available, and copies available in RHUL library.) (Vicky Greenaway)**

Topics for discussion:

- mapping the interior

- masculinity and the city

- Decadence and the urban

- Which literary form best represents the Victorian city?

**9. Mapping London I: Jack the Ripper and London Crime as Cultural Consumption. (Adam Roberts)**

**Preparation**: Some links to material on the Ripper crimes will be posted to Moodle.  There is no specific advance reading.  Class discussion will focus on the representation of London via these notorious murders, and on the texts associated with it.

1. **Seeing London I: Death in London: Nineteenth-Century Cemeteries.** **(Sophie Gilmartin)**

In this class we will be looking at some Victorian paintings of the village churchyard and considering these depictions in light of contemporary concerns over the overcrowding of, and the health and sanitation issues surrounding, the city churchyard.

**Preparation:** Please read Chapter 33 of Oliver Twist; Chapters 45 and 46 of Hardy's  Far From the Madding Crowd; Chapter 16 of Bleak House; Thomas Gray's 'Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard'; a selection of poems by Thomas Hardy: from the 'Poems of 1912-1913', 'I Found Her Out There' and 'Rain on a Grave'; 'In Death Divided', 'The Levelled Churchyard'; 'In the Cemetery'; 'The Inscription (A Tale)'.

**Suggested secondary reading:**

G.A. Walker's Gatherings from Graveyards (1839) is a much-cited work on the need for graveyard reform. It is a very long history of the cemetery from ancient times, but the chapter sections are clear, and you can turn to relevant sections on Victorian graveyards easily. Available on GoogleBooks.

Tim Armstrong, Haunted Hardy: Poetry, History, Memory, 2000.

Rod Edmond, 'Death Sequences: Patmore, Hardy, and the New Domestic Elegy' , Victorian Poetry (Summer 1981)

Sophie Gilmartin, Ancestry and Narrative in Nineteenth-Century British Literature: Blood Relations from Edgeworth to Hardy, 1998. See esp. chapter 6.

Catherine Robson, '"Where Heaves the Turf": Thomas Hardy and the Boundaries of the Earth', Victorian Literature and Culture, Vol, 32, No. 2 (2004).

Catherine Waters, '"Trading in Death": Contested Commodities in Household Words', Victorian Periodicals Review, (Winter 2003).

1. **Seeing London II: Gustave Doré and the vision of London.** **(Adam Roberts)**

**Preparation:** Check Moodle for links to Dore images.  Seminar discussion will entail group analysis of some of the more famous images from *London: a Pilgrimage*, which will require no specific advance preparation.

**Books:**

Books you need to buy and which it is advised you read in advance of the course are as follows:

*Illustrated London News*: a photocopy of this will be provided at the beginning of term, a week in advance of the first class.

Any edition of Dickens, *Oliver Twist* is acceptable; but particularly recommended is ed. by Stephen Gill (Everyman; 1994) ISBN: 046087490X. £3.99; amazon.co.uk price £2.99

Henry Mayhew, *London Labour and the London Poor*  (ed. by Victor E. Neuburg; Penguin 1985) ISBN: 0140432418. £9.99; amazon.co.uk price £7.99

Dickens, *Bleak House*; again, any edition is fine, but particularly recommended is the Everyman edition (1994) ISBN: 0460874233. £5.99, amazon.co.uk price £4.79

Stewart P. Evans, Keith Skinner (eds), *The Ultimate Jack the Ripper Sourcebook* (Constable Robinson 2002; ISBN: 1841194522), £12.99. Also recommended, possibly as an alternate purchase, is Philip Sugden, *The Complete History of Jack the Ripper* (rev ed., Constable Robinson 2002; ISBN: 1841193976); £8.99

Dore, Gustave, and Blanchard, Jerrold, *London: A Pilgrimage* (1851. Available online at http://jefferson.village.virginia.edu:1851/london/texts/dore/@Generic\_\_BookView)

**Bibliography**

For detailed suggestions for further reading week-by-week with links to the required articles and online versions of primary texts, please access your Moodle site for this course.

These books can be found in Royal Holloway Library, Senate House Library or (for some of the rarer texts) The British Library.

###### General

Altick, Richard, *The Shows of London* (1978)

Baedeker, Karl, *Baedeker's London and Its Environs: Handbook for Travellers* (1898).

Bayley, Stephen *The Albert Memorial: the Monument in its Social and Architectural Context* (1981).

*Black’s Guide to London and its Environs* (1873)

Booth, Charles, *Life and Labour of the People of London* (1889-91).

Bratton, J.S., ed. *Music Hall: Performance and Style* (1986).

Briggs, Asa, *Victorian Cities* (1963).

Cannadine, David, and David Reeder, eds. *Exploring the Urban Past: Essays in Urban History* (1982).

Clifton, Gloria C., *Professionalism, patronage, and public service in Victorian London* (1992).

Mary Cowling, *Victorian Figurative Painting, Domestic Life and the Victorian Social* *Scene,* A. Papadakis, 2000

Mary Cowling, *The Artist as Anthropologist,* Cambridge U.P., 1989

Creaton, Heather, *Bibliography of Printed Works on London History to 1939* (1993)

Croad, Stephen, *London’s Bridges* (1983)

Cunningham, Peter, *Handbook of London: Past and Present* (1850)

Daunton, M.J., *House and Home in the Victorian City: Working-Class Housing 1850-1914* (1983).

de Mare, Eric, *London’s Riverside* (1958)

Dexter, Walter, *The London of Dickens* (1923)

Dore Gustave, and Blanchard, Jerrold, *London: A Pilgrimage* (1851. Available online at [http://jefferson.village.virginia.edu:1851/london/texts/dore/@Generic\_\_BookView](http://jefferson.village.virginia.edu:1851/london/texts/dore/%40Generic__BookView))

Dyos, H.J. and Woolf, Michael eds. *The Victorian City: Images and Realities* (1973).

Egan, Pierce, *Life in London* (1869).

Feldman, David, and Gareth Stedman Jones, (eds) *Metropolis London: Histories and Representations Since 1800* (1989).

Fraser, Derek and Sutcliffe, A. eds., *The Pursuit of Urban History* (1983).

Freeman, Nicholas. *Conceiving the City: London, Literature, and Art, 1870-1914*. Oxford:

Oxford University Press, 2007.

Mireille Galinou and John Hayes, *London in Paint,* Museum of London, 1988

Garside, Patricia L. and Young, Ken, *Metropolitan London: Politics and Urban Change 1837-1981* (1982).

George, M. Dorothy, *Hogarth to Cruikshank: Social Change in Graphic Satire* (1967).

Gilmartin, Sophie. *Ancestry and Narrative in Nineteenth-Century British Literature*, (see Chapter 6 on Victorian city and village churchyards) (1998)

Gomme, G. Laurence, *London in the Reign of Victoria* (1898)

Herbert, Christopher, *Culture and Anomie: Ethnographic Imagination in the Nineteenth Century* (1991).

Hibbert, Christopher, ‘Dickens’s London’, in E W F Tomlin (ed), *Charles Dickens: a Centennial Volume* (1969)

Hollingshead, John, *Ragged London in 1861* (1861)

Humpherys, Anne. *Travels into the Poor Man’s Country: the Work of Henry Mayhew*. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1977.

Hyde, Ralph, *Printed Maps of Victorian London, 1851-1900* (1975).

E.D. H. Johnson, *paintings of the British Social Scene,* New York, Rizzoli, 1986.

Jones, Gareth Stedman. *Outcast London: A Study in the Relationship between the Classes*

*in Victorian Society*. Oxford: Clarendon, 1971.

Joyce, Simon. *Capital Offenses: Geographies of Class and Crime in Victorian London*.

Virginia: University of Virginia Press, 2003.

Keating, Peter. *The Working Classes in Victorian Fiction*. London: Routledge, 1971.

Kellett, J.R., *The Impact of Railways on Victorian Cities* (1969).

Korg, Jacob, *London in Dickens’s Day* (1960)

Koven, Seth. *Slumming: Sexual and Social Politics in Victorian London*. Princeton:

Princeton University Press, 2004.

Lees, L.H., *Exiles of Erin: the Irish in Victorian London* (1979).

Leonard, Tom, *Places of the Mind: the life and work of James Thomson (‘B.V.’)* (London:

Jonathan Cape, 1993)

Lillywhite, B, *London Coffee Houses* (1963).

Livesey, Ruth. ‘Reading for Character: Women Social Reformers and Narratives of the

Urban Poor in Late Victorian and Edwardian London.’ *Journal of Victorian Culture*

9 (2004): 45-57.

Livesey, Ruth. *Socialism, Sex, and the Culture of Aestheticism in Britain, 1880-1914*.

Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007.

Maltz, Diana. *British Aestheticism and the Urban Working Classes, 1870-1900: Beauty for*

*the People*. New York: Palgrave, 2005.

Marcus, Steven, *The Other Victorians* (1974).

Mayhew, Henry, *London Labour and the London Poor* (4 vols, 1861-2) [Available online at [http://jefferson.village.virginia.edu:1851/london/texts/mayhew/@Generic\_\_BookView](http://jefferson.village.virginia.edu:1851/london/texts/mayhew/%40Generic__BookView)]

McCalman, Iain. *Radical Underworld: Prophets, Revolutionaries, and Pornographers in London, 1795-1840* (1988)

McLeod, Hugh, *Class and Religion in Late-Victorian London* (1974).

Nead, Lynda. *Victorian Babylon: People, Streets and Images in Nineteenth-Century London* (2000)

Nord, Deborah. *Walking the Victorian Streets: Women, Representations, and the City*.

Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1995.

Olsen, Donald J, *The Growth of Victorian London* (1976)

Owen, D. The Government of Victorian London (1982).

Phillipps, Evelyn March, ‘The Working Lady in London’ *Fortnightly Review* 52 (August 1892).

Porter, Roy, *London: a Social History* (1994)

Schaefer, William David, *Beyond ‘The City’* (Berkeley: University of California Press,

1965)

Schaefer, William, ‘The Two Cities of Dreadful Night’, *PMLA* 77:5 (1962), 609-612

Schlicke, Paul, *Dickens and Popular Entertainment* (1985)

Schneer, Jonathan, *London 1900: Imperial Metropolis* (Yale UP, 1999)

Scott, Mary Jane W., *James Thomson, Anglo-Scot* (Athens, Georgia & London: University

of Georgia Press, 1988)

Seed, David, ‘Hell is a City: Symbolic Systems and Epistemological Scepticism in *The City*

*of Dreadful Night*’ in Glennis Byron and David Punter eds., *Spectral Readings:*

*towards a Gothic Geography* (Basingstoke: Macmillan, 1999) pp.88-107.

Sharpe, William, ‘Learning to Read *The City*’ in *Victorian Poetry* 22, no.1 (Spring 1984)

pp.65-84.

Soja, Edward J., ‘History: Geography: Modernity,’ in *Postmodern Geographies: The Reassertion of Space in Critical Social Theory* (1989).

Stamp, Gavin, *The Changing Metropolis: Earliest Photographs of London 1839-1879* (1984)

Steadman-Jones, Gareth, *Outcast London* (1971)

Summerson, John, *The Architecture of Victorian London* (1976).

 ---------- *The London Building World of the Eighteen-Sixties* (1973)

Tallis, John*, London Street Views 1838-40* (reprinted 1969)

*The Pictoral Handbook of London* (1854, 1862)

Timbs, John, *Curiosities of London* (new edn., 1868)

Tinkler-Villani, Valeria, ‘‘Ruins of an Unremembered Past’: Poetic strategies in James

Thomson’s *The City of Dreadful Night’* in Valeria Tinkler-Villani ed., *Babylon or*

*New Jerusalem?: perceptions of the city in literature* (Amsterdam: Rodopi, 2005)

pp.125-34.

Julian Treuherz, *Hard Times: Social realism in Victorian art,* Lund Humphries, 1987

Julian Treuherz, *Victorian Painting,* Thames & Hudson, 1993

Walkowitz, Judith. *City of Dreadful Delight: Narratives of Sexual Danger in Late Victorian*

*London.* London: Virago, 1992.

------, *Prostitution and Victorian Society* (1980)

Weinreb, Ben and Hibbert, Christopher, *The London Encyclopedia* (1983; 2nd ed, 1993)

Welsh, Alexander, *The City of Dickens* (1971).

Williams, Raymond, *The Country and the City* (1973).

Winter, James, *London’s Teeming Streets 1830-1914* (1993)

Christopher Wood, *Victorian Panorama,* Faber, 1990 (1976)

Christopher Wood, *Victorian Painting,* Weidenfeld, 1999

**Websites:**

http://webdoc.sub.gwdg.de/ebook/h-k/1999/iath/mhc/default.htm

*Monuments and Dust: the Culture of Victorian London.* An online project out of the Universities of Virginia and UCL that ‘seeks to extend both the terms and forms of the study of London’. It sets out to construct ‘an archive of primary materials--journalism, literary works, paintings, census data, maps, tracts, cartoons, sermons-- open to scholars and teachers in a wide range of disciplines.’

http://www.gendocs.demon.co.uk/victorian.html#HOME

Genealogy Research Tools: contains a wide range of links to resources on Victorian London, including: *Victorian London Street Index; Victorian London Churches; Victorian London Cemeteries; Victorian London Lodging Houses; Irish Nests in Victorian London; London Metropolitan Police Divisions; Victorian London Institutions; Victorian London Inns, Taverns & Public Houses; Victorian London Census Surname Indexes; Middlesex Parish Churches (Diocese of London)*

 http://www.ultranet.com/~rogerc/lbg-pics.html

Some pictures of Victorian London

http://www.iath.virginia.edu/mhc/Archive/Maps/index.html

A mid-century London map, *Cruchley's New Plan of London*.

London Lowlife <http://www.amdigital.co.uk/collections/London-Low-Life/Default.aspx>

A subscription resource that can be accessed via Senate House Library remote electronic resources once you have your library card. The site has digitised material from the Lilly Library, Indiana and elsewhere with excellent primary materials for the study of late nineteenth-century London, including George Gissing’s scrapbooks from the Pforzheimer collection and interactive searchable maps of the city. It was also managed by a former graduate of this MA programme and one of our MA interns helped develop text for the site in 2010!

**Sample Questions**

These are offered by way of suggesting the sorts of question students may wish to attempt for their essays.

# Literature

1. In *Topographies* (Stanford: California 1995), J Hillis Miller investigates ‘a cluster of related concepts as they gather around the central question of topography’. How do topographical descriptions or terms function in novels, poems, and philosophical texts? Just what, in a given text, is the topographical component and how does it operate?’

Write an essay on the topographical representation of London in any literary work of the nineteenth-century.

1. Discuss Dickens’s description and literary use of any **one** of the following: London Prisons; the Thames; Slums; London Bridges.
2. ‘London is now, effectively, the centre of the world, an *omphalos* for our modern age’ (Lord Derby). Discuss the representation of London in any **one** literary text of the period, with regard to questions of ‘centrality’ and ‘marginality’.
3. Discuss Walter Benjamin’s concept of the ‘flâneur’ and its potential for enriching the study of representations of urban identity in nineteenth-century London.
4. Judith Walkowitz argues that during the late nineteenth century London became a ‘contested terrain’ in which ‘new social actors’ sought to mark their presence in the city streets. Discuss the representation of such struggle and contest for urban existence in one or more nineteenth-century texts.
5. Analyse the symbolic function of money (or its absence) in two or more nineteenth-century texts studied on the course. Discuss the influence of Dante or Durer on Thomson’s ‘City of Dreadful Night’.

