

English 3211 – Period Studies: Victorian Literature

Overall English Department Mission Statement

The English Department at Dixie State College strives to instill in students an appreciation for the centrality of language and literature in human culture, particularly their function in social, historical, and political contexts. Students who major in English master skills in analyzing and evaluating texts and other media, as well as learning how to produce focused critical essays.

Emphasis Mission Statement (Literature)

Our literature courses seek to broaden and deepen students' understanding of the unique value of literary expression as an aesthetic form that challenges the senses, the intellect, and the imagination. Students also learn to appreciate the complex relationship between the aesthetic and intellectual aspects of literature and the culture and time in which it was produced.

Course Description

Fulfills a Period / Topic Studies requirement for English majors pursuing an emphasis in Literary Studies or English Education, and open to other interested students. Students will engage with the works and ideas of major writers of the period, such as Browning, Tennyson, Arnold, Swinburne, Dickens, Thackeray, Carlyle, and Ruskin, including their historical and cultural contexts. Successful students will demonstrate skill in reading different types of literature, in understanding narrative and figurative devices in using a variety of critical perspectives based on literary theory, and in sharing what they understand through both written and oral discussion. Provides opportunities for developing greater skill in the critical reading and appreciation of literature. Prerequisite: ENGL 2010 (Grade C or higher).

Course Goals:

Goals to be reached in this course:

- A knowledge and awareness of the importance and scope of the literary and intellectual contributions of the authors covered in the course.
- An extensive awareness of the major and minor works of the authors covered.
- An ability to analyze individual literary works through written and oral responses.

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon completing this course, students will have improved their ability to:

- Explain, critique, and identify themes and genres common to the authors covered.
- Analyze elements of literature, including plot, setting, characterization, theme, point of view, figurative language, and other literary devices.
- Illustrate an understanding of how Victorian writers influence and are influenced by historical, social, and political context.

Methods of Assessment:

Formative Assessment Methods

Quizzes: Students will periodically take quizzes, preparation checks, and/or tests to assess whether or not they are reading the material.

Mid-term Exam: Students will take a mid-term exam to assess their understanding of literary concepts, and to test their ability to apply those concepts to the specific works they have read. Exams will be returned promptly with instructor feedback.

Essay: Each student will write a critical research essay illustrating how the authors covered in the course use aspects and techniques of literary elements. Essays will be returned promptly with instructor feedback.

Summative Assessment Methods

Final Exam: At the end of the semester, students will take a final exam to assess their ability to synthesize concepts and course material.

Value-Added Assessment Method

Pre/Post Test: Students will take a course-specific pre- and post-test, to assess the ways in which their learning has increased during the semester. This will be a multiple-choice (scantron) test.