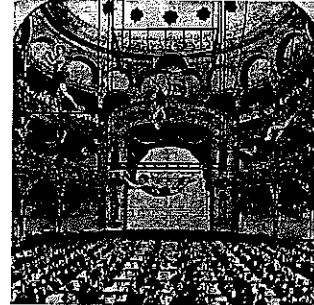


History 314
Victorian Britain: Spaces, Places, and Pests
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University of Pennsylvania, Fall 2016



In this course, we'll explore nineteenth-century British history through its nooks and crannies, by way of the problems that afflicted its citizens, the places Victorians lived, and the venues in which they had fun. Who were the Victorians and what made them tick? What does it mean to understand this society's "world view?" Our course will be organized around particular institutions and ideas: Parliament, docks, and germs; houses, imperial outposts, and museums.

Our focus is the Victorian period, but we'll interpret that broadly as we investigate British society, culture, and politics between 1815 (the end of the Napoleonic Wars) and 1914 (the outbreak of the first world war). Queen Victoria only ruled for 64 of those 99 years, but they form a century that is a relatively cohesive period of British history, one which saw a flourishing cultural output and the extension of British power over a quarter of the globe.

Readings will be drawn from primary and secondary sources; novels and plays as well as medical treatises and radical pamphlets. There is no textbook. And although the course is officially a lecture course, course participation and discussion will be extremely important. Victorians were wordy, but their words are worth reading. I'll do my best to keep the assigned pages down, but in return, I expect that you come to class having mastered the assigned material.

Assignments: 4 page primary source analysis (10%), Presentation or 5 minute podcast of a Victorian speech (15%), 10 page final synthetic paper (25%), final take-home exam (30%), participation (20%).

Calendar:

August 30th Course Introduction

NO READING

September 1st Introduction: Historical overview of the nineteenth century

Reading: TBD

September 6th Parliament: The Birth of Parties

Reading: J. Parry, *The Rise and Fall of Liberal Government in Victorian Britain* (pp. 1–78)
 Lichfield House Compact (Canvas)

September 8th Parliament: Reform

Reading: John Wade, *The Extraordinary Black Book* (Selections)
Chartist Petition

September 13th Parliament: Rhetoric

Reading: Joseph Meisel, *Public Speech and the Culture of Public Life in the Age of Gladstone* (pp. 1–11, 51–106)

September 15th Parliament: Gladstone and Disraeli

Reading: Richard Aldous, *The Lion and the Unicorn* (Selections)
W. Bagehot, *The English Constitution* (Selections)

Film: *Disraeli: Portrait of a Romantic* (Episode 3)

September 20th The City: The Masses

Reading: Henry Mayhew, *London Labour and the London Poor* (Introduction, “The Mud Larks,” “The Coster-Mongers,” “The Watercress Girl”).
Friedrich Engels, *Condition of the Working Class in England in 1844* (Ch. 1)
Steven Marcus, “Reading the Illegible”

September 22nd The City: Urban Delights, Crimes, and Melodramas

Reading: Dion Boucicault, *The Streets of London* (Entire)
Judith Walkowitz, *City of Dreadful Delight* (Selections)

September 27th The Prison I

Reading: Charles Dickens, *Little Dorrit* (Selections)
Charles Dickens, *American Notes for General Circulation* (Ch. 7)

September 29th The Prison II

Primary Source Analysis due via email

FIELD TRIP TO EASTERN STATE PENITENTIARY

October 4th The Germs: Cholera Epidemics

Reading: Thomas Beggs, “The Cholera: The Claims of the Poor Upon the Rich”
R.J. Morris, *Cholera 1832* (Selections)

October 11th The Germs: Sanitary Reform

Reading: C. Hamlin, *Public Health and Social Justice in the Age of Chadwick* (Intro.)
Edwin Chadwick, *Report on the Sanitary Conditions of the Labouring Population of Great Britain* (Selections)

October 13th The Church: Medievalism and Church Restoration

Reading: N. Pevsner, "Scrape and Anti-Scrape"
Anthony Trollope, *The Warden* (1-100)

October 18th The Church: Evangelicalism and Pluralism

Reading: Finish *The Warden*
E.P. Thompson, *The Making of the English Working Class* (Ch. 11)

October 20th The Church: Science, Religion, Mesmerism, and Spiritualism

Reading: Alison Winter, *Mesmerized* (Chs. 1-4)
Alex Owen, *The Darkened Room* (Introduction)

October 25th The Museum: The Great Exhibition and the Sydenham Crystal Palace

Reading: J. Auerbach, *A Nation on Display* (Selections)
Anon., *The Ten Chief Courts* (pp. 1-40)

October 27th The Museum: Heritage and the Stately Home

Reading: Peter Mandler, *The Fall and Rise of the Stately Home* (Selections)

November 1st The Empire: Liberal Empire

Reading: Catherine Hall, *Civilising Subjects* (Prologue and Ch. 4)
Lord Palmerston, "Civis Romanus Sum" Speech

November 3rd The Empire: Race, Caste, and Class

Reading: Anne McClintock, *Imperial Leather* (Ch. 1)
Bernard Porter, *Absent-Minded Imperialists* (Ch. 1-2)

November 8th The Empire?: Ireland

Reading: J.M. Synge, *Playboy of the Western World*

November 10th The Home: Separate Spheres?

Reading: Robert Kerr, *The Gentleman's House* (Selections)
L. Davidoff and C. Hall, *Family Fortunes* (Prologue and Introduction)
John Tosh, *A Man's Place* (Chs. 1 and 2)

November 15th The Home: Victorian Childhoods

Reading: C. Steedman, *Strange Dislocations* (Introduction and Ch. 3)

November 17th The Theatre

Film: Topsy-Turvy, dir. Mike Leigh

November 22nd The Docks: A Global Emporium

Reading: TBD

November 29th The Docks: Refugee Politics and Humanitarianism

Reading: B. Porter, *The Refugee Question in Victorian Britain* (Selections)

December 1st The Docks: Global Communication

Reading: TBD

December 6th Presentations

December 8th Course Conclusion

Reading: Lytton Strachey, *Eminent Victorians* (Chapters on Thomas Arnold and Florence Nightingale)

Final Paper due in class

Take Home Exam distributed