

TERM: Spring 2026

COURSE NUMBER & CATEGORY: ENGL 2300: History of Lit, Media, and Culture

COURSE TITLE: When the World Changed: Victorians and Moderns

SECTION TIMES/DAYS: MW 9:55-11:35 am

INSTRUCTOR: Molly Youngkin

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS:

Modernist writer Virginia Woolf said that “on or about December 1910, human character changed.” This course focuses on changes and continuities between the British Victorians (1837-1901) and Moderns (1901-1941) to show how literature and media can be analyzed in its historical context and how they influence cultural attitudes. In looking at the Victorians, we will examine literature and media within contexts such as work and poverty, faith and doubt, empire and race, and the politics of gender. In looking at the Moderns, we will examine literature and media within contexts such as Irish independence, World War I, the rise of psychology, the modern landscape, and World War II. While this course aims to show the depth of literature and media by Victorians and Moderns, the texts we will examine should be thought of as representative examples of a complex cultural tradition.

The following textbooks are required:

Black, Joseph et. al. The Broadview Anthology of British Literature: Volume 5: The Victorian Era. 3rd ed. Broadview P, 2021. ISBN 9781554814916

Black, Joseph et. al. The Broadview Anthology of British Literature: Volume 6A: The Early Twentieth Century. 1st ed. Broadview P, 2008. ISBN 9781551119236

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- recognize interpretative practices and how they are historically determined.
- recognize how literature, media, and culture produces, maintains, questions, and transforms society.
- explore the historically specific character of the literature, media, and culture covered in the course.
- understand how the literature, culture, and media in any given period draws on and modifies its literary, media, and cultural antecedents.

CLASS LEVEL RESTRICTION:

N/A

RECOMMENDED/PREREQUISITES:

N/A

COURSE ATTRIBUTES:

OLD CURRICULUM

- ☐ GENRES (LD)
- ☒ HISTORIES (LD)
- ☐ AUTHORS (UD)
- ☐ CRITICAL/THEORETICAL (UD)
- ☐ COMPARATIVE (UD)
- ☐ CREATIVE/ARTISTRY

CORE ATTRIBUTES:

N/A

NEW CURRICULUM

- ☐ DISCIPLINARY RESEARCH (LD)
- ☒ HISTORY OF LIT, MEDIA, AND CULTURE (LD)
- ☐ READING AND WRITING GENRES (LD)
- ☐ THEORY, POWER, AND RHETORIC (LD)
- ☐ PRE-1800 (UD)
- ☐ CREATIVE ARTISTRY (UD)
- ☐ RACE, INTERSECTIONALITY, AND POWER (UD)
- ☐ UPPER-DIVISION ELECTIVE (UD)
- ☐ 5000-LEVEL SEMINAR (UD)