

EN 4883/6883

Victorian Prose and Poetry

Dr. Shalyn Claggett

Class Time: Tues/Thurs 2:00



The Lady of Shalott says, "I should have stayed in my tower and read Victorian poetry!"

This course will address the thematic, stylistic, and cultural legacy of the major nineteenth-century British poets and prose writers. Although regarded as the "Age of the Novel," the Victorian poets occupy an important and peculiar position in the British canon. Distancing and distinguishing themselves from their Romantic predecessors, their unique contributions were quickly repudiated by twentieth-century poets and scholars who viewed their poetry as overly sentimental, rigid, and moralistic. Today, however, literary critics, writers, and readers are beginning to turn their attention with increasing interest to Victorian poetry, the merits of which are now being widely recognized. Following suit (and hopefully blazing a few trails of our own), the ultimate goal of this course will be to engage these texts critically and analytically through careful reading, thoughtful reflection, and intellectual discussions.

Texts:

The Broadview Anthology of Victorian Poetry, Thomas Collins and Vivienne Rundle, Eds.
Victorian Prose: An Anthology, Rosemary Mundhenk and LuAnn McCracken Fletcher, Eds.

Course Requirements:

Two exams, one short essay, a class presentation, a paper proposal, and a long research paper.