

EN 4/6883: Victorian Poetry and Prose

Dr. Shalyn Claggett

M/W 3:00-4:15 Online (Synchronous)



The Jabberwocky: “Victorian poetry slays!”

This course will address the thematic, stylistic, and cultural legacy of key Victorian poets and prose writers. Although the Victorian poets were long repudiated by early twentieth-century scholars who wished to distance themselves from their predecessors, literary critics have since turned their attention 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. Topics will include: Nonsense poetry, the verse novel, the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood (and Sisterhood!), the Spasmodics, the Medieval revival, the slave narrative, the Aesthetic movement and the Decadents. Poets and prose writers will include: Christina Rossetti, Elizabeth Barrett Browning, Robert Browning, Alfred Tennyson, Lewis Carroll, Oscar Wilde, and many more!

Required Texts (Purchase these Editions):

The Broadview Anthology of Victorian Poetry, Thomas Collins and Vivienne Rundle, Eds.
(ISBN:1-55111-100-4)

Aurora Leigh, Elizabeth Barrett Browning. Oxford: Oxford UP, 2008. (ISBN: 978-0-19-955233-7)

The History of Mary Prince, A West Indian Slave, Sara Salih, Ed. (ISBN: 978-0-140-43749-2)