

Syllabus: ENG 192/Introduction to Fiction
Nature in the Long Nineteenth-Century
Fall 20--

T/R 10:00-11:20 a.m.
Earth & Space Bldg., Rm #183
blavin@optonline.net

Instructor: Sophie Lavin
Office Hours: T/R 11:30-1:00
Office: 1088 Humanities

Required Texts:

- Bronte, Charlotte. *Jane Eyre*. Barnes & Noble Classics mass market paperback ([9781593080075](#))
- Dickens, Charles. *Hard Times*.
- Shreiner, Olive. *The Story of an African Farm*.
- Wells, H.G. *The Island of Dr. Moreau*
- Faulkner, William. *As I Lay Dying*. Random House (Vintage International) edition ([ISBN 9780679732259](#))
- All books/printouts are required and must be brought to class on the day they are discussed.*
- Additional readings will be posted on Blackboard*
- film adaptations will be placed on reserve in the Library.*

Recommended Texts:

The Bedford Glossary of Critical and Literary Terms

Course Description: This course examines fiction in the long nineteenth century through the lens of nature. Course goals include learning how to identify and analyze plot, narration, character, and setting in novels and short stories. Through close reading, we will also note the century's historic, social, and scientific changes, and how they mapped onto the nature theme in literary works. Genres will include domestic and social problem stories, coming-of-age and ghost stories, fairy tales and early modernist works. We will read short stories and novels by Bronte, Dickens, Gaskell, Trollope, Faulkner and Joyce to see how science and industry mapped onto nature in fictive works. We will also interpret nature through the visual cultures of the era, including artworks from Turner to Picasso, photography, and contemporary film adaptations such as *Jane Eyre*. Course requirements include one presentation, short response papers, and midterm and final exams.

Course Objectives:

- Knowledge of the literary, cultural and historic events in the long nineteenth-century
- Basic understanding of literary analysis and terms
- Ability to use literary analysis to interpret the elements of short stories and novels
- Ability to demonstrate interpretative skill through a project

Course Policies:

- **Attendance:** Please be on time. Attendance is mandatory. More than two unexcused absences will result in a grade drop. If you cannot attend a class, you should notify me in advance. It is department policy that more than four absences results in course failure.
- **Electronics:** No cell phones, text messaging, web surfing or games during class. If during class you use your cell phone or laptop for one of the above, it will count as **one absence AND an automatic grade deduction on the midterm.**
- **Hospitality:** you may bring a beverage to class, but no eating please.

Course Components:

- **Participation:** We are all readers and writers and speakers. I expect you to come to class prepared to discuss the assigned material and actively participate in discussions, take notes, and contribute to group work.
- **Group Work:** A small portion of each class will be devoted to work in either small or large groups.
- **Presentation:** You will be required to give one fifteen-minute presentation (sign up on BB) to enhance our discussion of a particular text. You may lecture, use powerpoint and/or handouts, and show film clips. You may choose to treat a particular theme (cultural/historical/scientific/artistic/gender, etc.) in your presentation.
- **Midterm:** The midterm will consist of three parts: passage identification, term identification, and essay question[s].
- **Final:** The final will be cumulative and will consist of three parts: passage identification, term identification and essay question[s].
- **Response Papers or quizzes:** One-page weekly response papers are required and will be collected on Thursdays. I may opt to give quizzes in place of response papers in any given week.

Since you will not be required to submit an essay for this course, I expect you to devote **quality time to closely read** the stories assigned.

Grading Policy:

Presentation—15%/150 points

Midterm—30%/300 points

Final—30%/300 points

Response papers or quizzes—10%/100 points

Attendance, Participation and Group Work—15%/150 points

Total Percentage=100%/1000 points

This syllabus is provisional and may be changed. An asterisk indicates reading material found on Blackboard.

Grades assigned for this course will be based on the percentage of total points earned and are assigned according to the following scale (as are grades for individual assignments):

Grade	Percentage	Performance
A	94% – 100%	Excellent Work
A-	90% – 93%	Nearly Excellent Work
B+	87% – 89%	Very Good Work
B	84% – 86%	Good Work
B-	80% – 83%	Mostly Good Work
C+	77% – 79%	Above Average Work
C	74% – 76%	Average Work
C-	70% – 73%	Mostly Average Work
D+	67% – 69%	Below Average Work
D	64% – 66%	Poor Work
F	63% or below	Incomplete/Failing Work

Course Schedule:

- 8/28 Course Introduction
- Introduction to Fiction: Narration, Plot, Characters, Time & Place
 - Reading Environmental Literature→Love “Planet Indivisible”
- 8/30 Introduction to the Long Nineteenth-Century
- Literature & Culture
 - Science & Nature
 - **Fairy Tales:** Ruskin-- “King of the Golden River, or The Black Brothers”
- 9/4 NO CLASS
- 9/6 Rossetti--“Hero,” Film clip Sherlock Homes to contextualize nature
- 9/11 *Jane Eyre*
- 9/13 *Jane Eyre (RR1 due)*
- 9/18 *Jane Eyre*
- 9/20 *Jane Eyre (RR2 due)*
- 9/25 *Jane Eyre*
- 9/27 *Jane Eyre (RR3 due)*
- 10/2 *Jane Eyre*
- 10/4 *Jane Eyre (RR4 due)*
- 10/9 “Goblin Market”*
- 10/11 *Hard Times (RR5 due)*
- 10/16 *Hard Times*
- 10/18 *Hard Times (RR6 due)*
- 10/23 *Hard Times*
- 10/25 *The Story of an African Farm (RR7 due)*
- 10/30 *The Story of an African Farm*
- 11/1 Film Adaptation of *SAF*—*Bustin’ Bonaparte*
- 11/6 *The Island of Dr. Moreau*
- 11/8 *The Island of Dr. Moreau (RR8 due)*
- 11/13 *The Island of Dr. Moreau*
- 11/15 *The Island of Dr. Moreau (RR9 due)*
- 11/20 Midterm
- 11/22 THANKSGIVING
- 11/27 *As I Lay Dying*
- 11/29 *As I Lay Dying (RR10 due)*
- 12/4 *As I Lay Dying*
- 12/6 *As I Lay Dying*
- 12/11—12/19 FINAL EXAM—day to be determined

DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES (DSS) STATEMENT

If you have a physical, psychological, medical, or learning disability that may impact your course work, please contact Disability Support Services (631) 632-6748 or <http://studentaffairs.stonybrook.edu/dss/>. They will determine with you what accommodations are necessary and appropriate. All information and documentation is confidential.

Students who require assistance during emergency evacuation are encouraged to discuss their needs with their professors and Disability Support Services. For procedures and information go to the following website:

<http://www.stonybrook.edu/ehs/fire/disabilities/asp>.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY STATEMENT

Each student must pursue his or her academic goals honestly and be personally accountable for all submitted work. Representing another person's work as your own is always wrong. Faculty are required to report any suspected instance of academic dishonesty to the Academic Judiciary. For more comprehensive information on academic integrity, including categories of academic dishonesty, please refer to the academic judiciary website at <http://www.stonybrook.edu/uaa/academicjudiciary/>

CRITICAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT

Stony Brook University expects students to respect the rights, privileges, and property of other people. Faculty are required to report to the Office of Judicial Affairs any disruptive behavior that interrupts their ability to teach, compromises the safety of the learning environment, and/or inhibits students' ability to learn.