

- Faculté des lettres et sciences humaines
- www.unine.ch/lettres

Seminar 4: Modern and Contemporary Literature : 19th Century British Fiction (2AN1430)

Filières concernées	Nombre d'heures	Validation	Crédits ECTS
Pilier principal B A - langue et littérature anglaises	Séminaire: 2 ph	Voir ci-dessous	5
Pilier secondaire B A - langue et littérature anglaises	Séminaire: 2 ph	Voir ci-dessous	5

ph=période hebdomadaire, pg=période globale, j=jour, dj=demi-jour, h=heure, min=minute

Période d'enseignement:

- Semestre Printemps

Equipe enseignante:

Prof. Patrick Vincent

Objectifs:

The aims of this course are the following:

- To develop students' close reading skills, learned in the first-year Introduction to Literature course
- To pursue in more depth a specific genre, period, or theme in modern literary history
- To improve expository and critical thinking skills, notably through class participation and a trip journal.
- To improve research-paper writing skills, notably by preparing on oral presentation based on a critical article, and by learning how to integrate secondary criticism into a longer essay
- To visit and experience the places discussed in the literature in order to get a better understanding of British society culture then and today

Contenu:

The mid-Victorian period was the Golden Age of the three-volume realist novel dramatizing what Thomas Carlyle in 1839 had called the "Condition of England Question." Male but also female writers courageously tackled many of the issues and anxieties that still affect us today, imagining heroes (and more often than not, heroines) incarnating their hope in a better future. Among the many themes addressed one may list gender, family, education, empire, industrialization, education, democracy, utilitarianism, capitalism, evangelicalism, and that minefield issue in Britain, social class.

To honor Brontë200, the bicentenary anniversary of all the Brontë siblings, this seminar will examine the three Brontë sisters' most important novels, all published in or close to 1848, as well as Elizabeth Gaskell's *Mary Barton*, also published that year. 1848 was not only a remarkable year in English literature—it was also marked by worldwide social unrest and revolution. As such, we will read historical and critical texts in order to be able to historicize these novels, and notably to better understand their treatment of the condition of women and of the working class.

An integral part of the course will be the four-day study trip to Manchester, Howarth, and York. The aim of the trip will be to get a better understanding of life in Victorian England, contrasting it with other periods, including the Georgian era and the Middle Ages (in York and at Castle Howard). Students will be required to keep a journal during the trip.

Forme de l'évaluation:

Ev. Interne : One in-class presentation of primary or secondary text (10%); trip journal (20%) ; research essay (6-8 double-spaced pages) (70%).

Documentation:

To purchase in Oxford World Classic or Penguin Editions:

- Elizabeth Gaskell, *Mary Barton* (1848)
- Emily Brontë, *Wuthering Heights* (1847)
- Charlotte Brontë, *Jane Eyre* (1847)
- Anne Brontë, *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall* (1848)

All other reading will be placed on the Moodle course platform.

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Pré-requis:

First-year courses (PP1-PP3) are required; « Modern and Contemporary Literature » lecture is recommended.

Forme de l'enseignement:

Seminar (participation is required)