

History 392
Victorian London
Wednesdays, 2:30-4:20
AJLC 104

Ms. Diana Shull

Rice Hall, 315

Office Hours: Mondays, 2:00-3:30; Thursdays, 1:00-2:30; also by appointment.

diana.shull@oberlin.edu

x5-8590

Course Overview:

This course thematically explores London, the “city of dreadful delights,” focusing on the urban experience over the course of the long nineteenth century. We will examine the growth of Victorian London and the challenges that urbanization presented to laissez-faire liberalism.

The course addresses two main skills: 1) the ability to understand and critique scholarly works and 2) the ability to analyze primary sources of all kinds. The final research project for this class will culminate in a 15-page paper based on research in primary sources and that demonstrates your understanding of the relevant secondary literature.

Course Requirements and Policies:

Class Discussion: The format of the course is discussion. Regular and intensive participation by each member of the class is essential. You **must** read the assigned primary sources and secondary works before coming to class. Your participation grade is primarily based on your willingness to engage in class discussion in a constructive and consistent manner.

Attendance: You cannot participate in class discussion if you do not attend class! Class meetings are mandatory. You may miss one meeting for any reason. Please send me an email letting me know that you will miss/have missed class. Any further failure to attend will have a negative impact on your participation grade unless this absence occurs due to a medical condition or a family emergency.

Extensions and Late Assignments: I do not give extensions except in case of an emergency. If you turn in an assignment late, your grade will drop by a third of a letter grade (for example from a ‘B’ to a ‘B-’) for every 24-hour period for which it is late. You must submit a hard copy of your late work.

Honor Code: All students are expected to adhere to the Oberlin Honor Code on all written assignments. You must write and sign the honor code pledge at the end of each assignment. You can review the honor code here: <http://www.oberlin.edu/students/links-life/honorcode.html>.

Accommodations: If you have specific physical, psychiatric or learning disabilities and require accommodations, please let me know early in the semester so that your learning needs may be appropriately met. You will need to provide documentation of your disability to the Office of Disability Services in Peters G-27/G-28.

Assignments and Grading:

You will receive more information about these assignments in handouts later in the course.

*Class Participation (30%)

*“A Day/Night Out” Assignment (10%): Due **1 October** in class.

*Response Papers (15% total): Five 2-page responses to the readings are due by the end of the semester. You can choose when you turn in the response papers; however, you must turn in at least 2 response papers before Fall Break. Response papers are due to me **VIA EMAIL BY 11PM the TUESDAY NIGHT BEFORE** we discuss the readings.

*Literature Review (10%): Due **12 November** in class.

*Final Paper (35%): **Due by 11am on Thursday, 18 December in my office, Rice 315.**

****You must complete all assignments in order to receive a grade for this course.****

Required Texts:

Readings for this course will combine historical scholarship with literature, journalism, government documents, and other sources. You are encouraged to view all of these sources as historical texts and to consider broader questions about the nature of Victorian London.

Texts available at the bookstore and on reserve at the library:

Koven, Seth. *Slumming: Sexual and Social Politics in Victorian London*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2006 (paperback edition).

Mayhew, Henry. *London Labour and the London Poor*.

This is available on reserve in the library and Google Books as well. If you choose to read the Google Books version, you must be responsible for finding another copy if the Google scanning process is not perfect (which happens more often than it should).

Schedule of Topics:

I will provide you with reading assignments for each class on separate sheets.

3 September: Introduction to class

10 September: What is Urban History?

Lecture on Victorian Britain, Liberalism, and Industrialization

17 September: Aesthetics of Victorian London

24 September: Economic and Demographic Foundations

1 October: Class

“A Day/Night Out” assignment due in class.

8 October: Ethnicity and Race

15 October: Housing

22 October: Fall Break—No Class

29 October: Public Health and Pollution

5 November: Consumption and Leisure

12 November: Crime and Prostitution

Literature Review due in class.

19 November: Individual Meetings about Research Progress

26 November: Municipal Reform, I

3 December: Municipal Reform, II

10 December: Representations of Victorian London in Fiction and Art

****Final Paper due Thursday, 18 December at 11am in my office, Rice 315****