

Course Description Form

Course number and section: English 355

Course Topic: Neo-Victorian Fiction

Credits: 3

Term: Term 2

Instructor: Dr. Jennifer Gustar

Course Description: Victorian novelists, like Charles Dickens, the Brontës, or Wilkie Collins, told wonderful and vast stories, with curious, sometimes creepy characters, detailed and sometimes seedy settings, as well as plenty of crime scenes. These novels displayed multiple subplots to keep us guessing. Neo-Victorian novels seek to recapture some of that same narrative drive, complex plotting, and the pleasures afforded by this kind of story-telling. At the same time, they often resolve in very contemporary ways by elliptically commenting on our contemporary moment, or by addressing significant elisions in the historical record.

Books under consideration:

(This is a new course, so I am still deciding on the book list; the first two are definitely in the line-up)

Sarah Waters, *Fingersmith*

Julian Barnes, *Arthur and George*

Angela Carter, *Nights at the Circus*

Margaret Atwood *Alias Grace*

Jean Rhys, *Wide Sargasso Sea*

Eleanor Catton, *Gillespie and I*

Valerie Martin, *Mary Reilly*

Charles Palliser, *The Unburied*

A.S. Byatt, *Angels & Insects*