

Department of English & Writing Studies

**English 3353F (001)**

**The Woman Question: Nineteenth-Century Women Writers**

Fall 2025

**Instructor:** Dr. Jo Devereux

**Prerequisites:** At least 60% in 1.0 of English 1020-1999 or permission of the Department. Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

### Course Description

In the nineteenth century, women readers and women writers were an important part of the new mass market for English literature, often leading in the emergent campaign for women's rights. This course will discuss these and other issues in fiction, non-fiction, and poetry by women from the 1790s to 1900. 3 hours, 0.5 course

### **Objectives:**

By the end of the course, successful students will be able to:

- demonstrate increased proficiency in research about nineteenth-century British literature
- present their analysis of nineteenth-century writings by and about women in a clear, compelling, and concise prose style free from technical errors

### Course Materials

**NB: All these books are required, and you must bring to class the edition listed below and use that edition for your essays. Failure to use the correct edition will result in a failing grade on your essay. No exceptions.**

### **Required Texts (all Broadview editions):**

At the Western bookstore, you may buy either the print or the E-book bundle of these four novels:

Print Bundle: \$77.40

E-book Bundle: \$53.00

*Mary Barton* (1848)

Written by: Elizabeth Gaskell

Edited by: Jennifer Foster

*East Lynne* (1861)

Written by: Ellen Wood

Edited by: Andrew Maunder

*Lady Audley's Secret* (1862)

Written by: Mary Elizabeth Braddon

Edited by: Natalie M. Houston

*The Romance of a Shop* (1888)

Written by: Amy Levy

Edited by: Susan Bernstein

### Methods of Evaluation

The grade for the course will be arrived at as follows:

**Essay 1**, due October 2: 15%

**Essay Proposal**, due November 20 : 20%

**Essay 2**, due December 8: 25%

**Attendance**: 5%

Sliding scale for attendance grade:

Days missed    Grade.

0-2                5/5

3-5                4/5

6-7                3/5

8-9                2/5

10                 1/5

>10                0/5

**Final Exam**, In-person, December 2025 (date TBA): 35%

**Electronic Devices:** *No aids are permitted for the exam. Electronic devices of any kind (including calculators, cell phones and smart watches) are not permitted.*

Students are fully responsible for looking at and being familiar with the information posted on the department website at <http://www.uwo.ca/english/undergraduate/Student%20Information.html>.

### **Academic Consideration**

Students may request academic consideration in cases of extenuating circumstances – that is, personal circumstances beyond the student's control that have a **substantial but temporary** impact on the student's ability to meet essential academic requirements.

1. Requests for academic consideration are made to the Academic Advising office of the student's Faculty of Registration.
2. Requests for academic consideration include the following components:
  - a. Self-attestation signed by the student;
  - b. Indication of the course(s) and assessment(s) relevant to the request;
  - c. Supporting documentation as relevant.

Requests without supporting documentation are **limited to one per term**.

Assignments with flexible deadlines and any term work that does not count towards the course grade are **not** eligible for additional consideration.

Documentation for medical illness, when required, includes the completion of a [Western Student Medical Certificate \(SMC\)](#) or, where that is not possible, equivalent documentation, by a health care practitioner.

Requests linked to examinations scheduled by the Office of the Registrar during official examination periods as well as practice laboratory and performance tests typically scheduled in the last week of term **always** require formal supporting documentation.

### **Attendance**

Attendance is mandatory in all classes and tutorials. In cases of excessive absenteeism (e.g. more than 9 unexcused hours for a half course, 18 for a full course), which are not accounted for by either academic consideration or accommodation, students may be debarred from taking the final examination, and will receive an official warning to this effect by or before the course drop date (see Senate policy). In classes with or without final exams, students who do not attend class will receive 0% for course participation grades. Unless other policies dictate a different set of penalties in specific English and Writing Studies programs, this will apply to all department programs.

### **Gender-Based and Sexual Violence**

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence (GBSV) and providing compassionate support to anyone who is going through or has gone through these traumatic events. If you are experiencing or have experienced GBSV (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at the following website: [https://www.uwo.ca/health/student\\_support/survivor\\_support/get-help.html](https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html). To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact [support@uwo.ca](mailto:support@uwo.ca).

### **Intellectual Property/Copyright**

All instructor-written materials (e.g. PowerPoints, lecture notes, oral lectures) for this course are created solely for students' personal use within the course, and remain the instructor's intellectual property. Further reproduction, fixation, distribution, transmission, dissemination, communication, or any other uses, without securing the consent of the copyright owner (the course instructor) may be an infringement of copyright. You may not distribute, email, or otherwise communicate these materials to any other person. These limitations extend to recording, photographing, or sharing lectures (online or in-person) and lecture material without permission. Posting the instructor's content from this course to online course sharing sites like OneClass or Course Hero without permission is both an infringement of intellectual property law and a violation of academic integrity guidelines. The instructor will pass these cases on to the Western University Ombudsperson or their Department Chair as appropriate.

### **Religious Accommodation**

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the Western Multicultural Calendar.

### **Support Services**

Registrarial Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services <https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login>

Services provided by the USC <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Academic Support & Engagement <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to MentalHealth@Western:  
<http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

### **Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence**

\*The use of generative AI, such as ChatGPT, is **not** permitted and will be considered a scholastic offence in this course.

### Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

### **Plagiarism**

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence.

### **Plagiarism Checking**

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com <http://www.turnitin.com>.

All instances of plagiarism will be reported to the Chair of Undergraduate Studies. Proven cases of plagiarism will result in a grade of zero for the assignment. Subsequent offences will result in failure for the course.

### Schedule of Classes and Assignments

Sept.4            Introduction

Sept.9-11       Introduction continued.

Sept.16-18     Mary Barton (1848)

Sept.23-25     Mary Barton (1848)

Oct.2   No class Tuesday: Truth and Reconciliation Day; Sensation Fiction Thursday; **Essay 1 Due Oct.2 (15%)**

Oct.7-9         East Lynne (1861)

Oct.14-16       East Lynne (1861)

Oct.21-23	Women in publishing
Oct.28-30	Lady Audley's Secret (1862)
Nov.4-6	FALL READING WEEK
Nov.11-13	Lady Audley's Secret (1862); Proposal workshopping Nov. 13
Nov.18-20	The Romance of a Shop (1888): <b>Proposal Due Nov. 20 (20%)</b>
Nov.25-27	The Romance of a Shop (1888)
Dec.2-4	Women at the fin-de-siecle; Essay workshopping Dec. 4
Dec.9	Victorian Tea Party on Tuesday! <b>Essay 2 Due Dec.9 (25%)</b>
Dec.TBA	<b>Final Exam (2 hours, in-person, 35%)</b>