

ENGL40011 Dickens and the Condition of England

Credit Points:	12.50
Level:	4 (Undergraduate)
Dates & Locations:	This subject is not offered in 2013. 2 hour seminar per week
Time Commitment:	Contact Hours: 2 Total Time Commitment: 120
Prerequisites:	Admission to the postgraduate certificate, postgraduate diploma or fourth year honours in English & theatre studies.
Corequisites:	None
Recommended Background Knowledge:	None
Non Allowed Subjects:	None
Core Participation Requirements:	For the purposes of considering request for Reasonable Adjustments under the disability Standards for Education (Cwth 2005), and Students Experiencing Academic Disadvantage Policy, academic requirements for this subject are articulated in the Subject Description, Subject Objectives, Generic Skills and Assessment Requirements of this entry. The University is dedicated to provide support to those with special requirements. Further details on the disability support scheme can be found at the Disability Liaison Unit website: http://www.services.unimelb.edu.au/disability/
Contact:	Grace Moore gmoo@unimelb.edu.au (mailto:gmoo@unimelb.edu.au)
Subject Overview:	Widely regarded as one of the most important writers of the nineteenth century, Charles Dickens was responsible for some of the most memorable novels of the period and is viewed as one of the first transatlantic literary celebrities. This subject will examine Dickens's development as a writer from his earliest comedic works, through his 'dark' novels of the 1850s, to the end of his career with his final completed novel <i>Our Mutual Friend</i> . Employing a wide range of theoretical approaches, we will consider Dickens's contribution to social reform and the 'Condition of England Question', along with his identity as a metropolitan writer. We will also focus on Dickens's relationship to the 'realist' convention, the melodrama and sensationalism of his fiction, his early use of the grotesque, along with his often-problematic engagements with gender and parent-child relations. Other topics for consideration will include his use of religious typology, celebrity, depictions of imperial and domestic 'others' in his works, film adaptations, and why Dickens's reputation has endured into the twenty-first century.
Objectives:	Students who complete this subject: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> # have gained an overview of the trajectory of Dickens's career as a novelist, journalist and social reformer; # have examined the social, political and economic changes that produced Dickens's unique responses to the 'Condition of England Question'; # have explored gender, class and racial discourses in Victorian Britain; # be able to discuss and write about nineteenth-century texts in a sophisticated manner; # have acquired a transportable set of interpretive skills; # have developed their capacity for independent research; # have developed their capacity for critical thinking and analysis; and # have developed their ability to communicate in writing.
Assessment:	A research essay of 5000 words 100% (due in the examination period). Students are required to attend a minimum of 80% (or 10 out of 12) classes in order to qualify to have their written work assessed. Any student who fails to meet this hurdle without valid reason will not be eligible to pass the subject. All required written work must be submitted in order to pass the subject.

	Essays submitted after the due date without an extension will be penalised 2% per day. Essays submitted after two weeks of the assessment due date without a formally approved application for special consideration or an extension will only be marked on a pass/fail basis if accepted.
Prescribed Texts:	A subject reader including contextual material by Thomas Carlyle, Harriet Martineau, Karl Marx and Henry Mayhew, and additional journalism and short stories by Charles Dickens, including extracts from his journals, Household Words and All the Year Round. The reader will also contain a range of critical reading, to include articles by John Bowen, John O. Jordan, Catherine Robson and Hilary Schor. C Dickens, N Page (ed), The Old Curiosity Shop, Penguin World's Classics, 2001. C Dickens, N Bradbury et al (eds), Bleak House, Penguin World's Classics, 2003. C Dickens, R Mitchell (ed), A Tale of Two Cities, Penguin World's Classics, 2003. C Dickens, K Flint (ed), Hard Times, Penguin World's Classics, 2004. C Dickens, A Poole (ed), Our Mutual Friend, Penguin World's Classics, 1997.
Breadth Options:	This subject is not available as a breadth subject.
Fees Information:	Subject EFTSL, Level, Discipline & Census Date, http://enrolment.unimelb.edu.au/fees
Generic Skills:	<p>Students who successfully complete this subject will acquire skills in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> # research through competent use of library, and other (including online) information sources, and through the successful definition of areas of inquiry and methods of research; # critical thinking and analysis through the use of recommended reading, essay writing and tutorial discussion, the questioning of accepted wisdom and the ability to shape and strengthen persuasive judgments and arguments, attention to detail in reading material, and through openness to new ideas and the development of critical self-awareness; # theoretical thinking through use of recommended reading, essay writing and tutorial discussion, and a productive engagement with relevant methodologies and paradigms in literary studies and the broader humanities; # creative thinking through essay writing and tutorial discussion, the innovative conceptualising of problems and an appreciation of the role of creativity in critical analysis; # social, ethical and cultural understanding through use of recommended reading, essay writing and tutorial discussion, the social contextualisation of arguments and judgments, adaptations of knowledge to new situations and openness to new ideas, and the development of critical self-awareness in relation to an understanding of other cultures and practices; # intelligent and effective communication of knowledge and ideas through essay preparation, planning and writing as well as tutorial discussion, effective dissemination of ideas from recommended reading and other relevant information sources, clear definition of areas of inquiry and methods of research, and confidence to express ideas in public forums; and # time management and planning through the successful organization of workloads, disciplined self-direction and the ability to meet deadlines.
Related Majors/Minors/Specialisations:	<p>English and Theatre English and Theatre Studies English and Theatre Studies</p>