

Syllabus Eng 551

## **Victorian Poetry and the New Print Media**

Tuesdays, 1.30-4.30 p.m.  
Special Collections Classroom

Dr Alison Chapman  
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Office Hour: 1.30-2.30 p.m.  
Or by appointment

### **Outline**

This course explores both the role of new print media in Victorian poetry, and the role of Victorian poetry in the new print media. Through an examination of periodicals, newspapers and new book technologies such as the illustrated gift book, we will map the symbiotic relationship between print culture and Victorian poetry. The goal of the course is to frame Victorian poetry as modern, dynamic, and experimental in subject matter and form – indeed, that is how most poets saw their own vocation – and to achieve a historical nuanced understanding of the sociology of poetic writing, dissemination and reception in the period.

The seminars will take place in Special Collections, and draw extensively on the library’s holdings of books and periodicals in the period, supplemented by electronic databases. The course will emphasise students’ independent research in the material – especially as secondary reading in the area (and even bibliographies) are surprisingly thin on the ground. We will encounter both canonical and non-canonical poems and a wide range of print media, but the focus will be on print media and thus the course will not be author-centric.

### **Student Responsibilities**

Regular attendance and full participation (through discussions, thorough preparation and timely submissions of assignments) is expected and will be rewarded with an impressive participation mark. Absences with no reasonable explanation will mean a low participation mark. Late assignments without medical evidence will be penalised by 5% for the first day and 1% each subsequent day. Please involve – indeed, immerse! – yourself in the primary research in the library and read widely through the secondary texts. This class is reading and research intensive; if you keep up with the pace of the class you will enjoy it much more and, of course, do better!

## The classroom

I prefer a classroom to be student-centred, and this means active learning and independent thought, facilitated but not dominated by the instructor. I will also, however, provide mini-lectures and guidance where necessary. The seminars will be workshop-oriented in style, and we will have some exciting guest researchers sharing their expertise with us.

## About me

I am a Victorian poetry specialist, although I have also published widely in many other areas. I'm currently completing a book on the poetic ecology of Elizabeth Barrett Browning's life in Italy, which relies heavily on the mediation and circulation of print. I've taught graduate classes in the U.K. so if my style and manner is different from what you've experienced before, that may be the reason! I welcome student feedback as the course progresses, and I encourage you to approach me in my office hour (or at another time by appointment) for chats and guidance about this course and anything Victorian-related.

## Assignments

- **Teaching text: 15%**
  - Please sign up for a week where you will lead the discussion on the set text(s)
- **Research Article: 30% (due 23 Feb)**
  - 15pp., excluding notes and bibliography
  - On a topic of your choosing
- **Class conference: 15%**
  - Each student to give a 10 minute conference-style paper based on their research project, and to give feedback on other projects
- **Project: Research Guide and Index to Poetry in Victorian Periodicals: 30% (due: 13 March)**
- **Participation**
  - 10%

## Grading

All assignments will be graded with letter grades. These are based on the following established departmental guidelines:

A+	90-100	B+	75-79	C+	60-64	F	0-49
A	85-89	B	70-74	C	55-59		
A-	80-84	B-	65-69	D	50-54		

Please read the policy on **plagiarism** and cheating in the University Calendar. Any proven plagiarism or cheating will result in a grade of zero for the assignment. If you are unclear on the relation between paraphrase and plagiarism, please see me before submitting a paper. It

is mandatory that you complete **all assignments** in order to pass the course. Students who fail to do so will receive a grade of N.

**Late or incomplete assignments** I will not accept late Text-in-Context assignments, because it would not be fair on other students to let you write the assignment after benefiting from my in-class feedback. In cases where an extension is warranted, I will require that you switch assignments to one due on a later date, if one is available. Teaching Text presentations involve the whole class and will not be rescheduled unless you have a medical emergency. In the case of the research portfolio, late submissions will be penalised by 5% on the first day and 1% for each day thereafter (including weekends). If you have a medical or other emergency that prevents you from submitting the essay on the due date, please get in touch with me as soon as possible to discuss the possibility of an extension.

## Seminar Topics

Week 1 (5 Jan)      The Victorian new print media: an introduction  
How to read a Victorian poem  
Review of available resources  
\*\*\*\* **Chris Petter**, Special Collections Librarian, will introduce us to handling rare material in the library. \*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\***Danielle Russell**, Subject Librarian, will talk about the periodicals indexing project and research guide.\*\*\*\*  
**Primary Reading:** Elizabeth Barrett Browning, "A Musical Instrument", *Cornhill Magazine* July 1860: 84-85; Christina Rossetti, "In the Round Tower at Jhansi", *Once a Week* (13 August 1859; p. 140); Thomas Hardy, "The Darkling Thrush" (orig. published as "By the Century's Deathbed"), *Graphic*, 19 December 1900; Felicia Hemans, "The Homes of England", *Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine*, April 1827  
**Secondary Reading:** Kathryn Ledbetter, *British Victorian Women's Periodicals: Beauty, Civilization, Poetry* (Palgrave 2009), Introduction, [e-resource]; Linda K. Hughes, "What the Wellesley Index Left Out: Why Poetry Matters to Periodical Studies", *Victorian Periodicals Review* 40: 2 (Summer 2007): 91-125 (e-journal); Lee Erickson, "The Market" in *A Companion to Victorian Poetry*

Week 2 (12 Jan)      **Victorian print and print culture.**  
\*\*\*\*Dr Cliff Siskin (NYU), Landsdowne Visiting Speaker, will introduce us to key issues in nineteenth-century print culture studies \*\*\*\*  
**Primary Reading:** Students to select and introduce one periodical from the complete run serials list and write a 1-page report on the poetry included.  
**Secondary reading:** Argument and Chapter 9 of Clifford Siskin,

*Work of Writing*

Plus: see material at *The Victorian Web*:  
[www.victorianweb.org/technology/print/index.html](http://www.victorianweb.org/technology/print/index.html)

- Week 3 (19 Jan)      **The annual 1**  
 Primary Reading: *The Keepsake* 1828 [PR1143 K44 1829]; *Amulet* 1826 [AY13 A6]; *Forget Me Not* 1823 [AY13 .F7]; *Gem* 1829 [AY13 G3]; *Literary Souvenir* 1835 [AY13 L5]  
 Secondary Reading: Linda Peterson, "Domestic and Idyllic Poetry", both in Richard Cronin, Alison Chapman and Antony H. Harrison (eds.), *A Companion to Victorian Poetry*; Ann Hawkins, "Marketing Gender and Nationalism: Blessington's Gems of Beauty/L'Ecrin and the Mid-Century Book Trade", *Women's Writing* 2005; 12 (2): 225-40 [e-journal]; Margaret Linley, "A Centre that Would Not Hold: Annuals and Cultural Democracy", in Laurel Brake, Bill Bell and David Finkelstein, *Nineteenth-Century Media and the Construction of Identities*
- Week 4 (26 Jan)      **Annual 2: Case study: Alfred, Lord Tennyson**  
 Primary Reading: *Friendship's Offering* 1833  
 Secondary Reading: Kathryn Ledbetter, *Tennyson and Victorian Periodicals: Commodities in Context*, ch. 1 [Google Books]
- Week 5 (2 Feb)  
 Media Edition      **Pre-Raphaelite Print Culture**  
 Primary Reading: *The Germ* [AP4 G34 1901]; *The Germ: A Hyper-*  
 Secondary Reading: Easley ch 6;
- Week 6 (9 Feb)      **Gift Books**  
 Primary Reading: Primary Reading: Christina Rossetti, *Goblin Market and Other Poems* (1862) [PR5237 .G6], illustrated by Dante Gabriel Rossetti; Tennyson, *The Princess* (1860) [PR5571 A1 1860], illustrated by the Dalziel brothers  
 Secondary Reading: Lorraine Janzen Kooistra, "Poetry in the Victorian Marketplace: the illustrated Princess as a Christmas gift book", *Victorian Poetry* 45: 1 (Spring 2007): 49-76;
- Week 7 (16 Feb)      Reading Break
- Week 8 (23 Feb)      **The literary weekly**  
 Primary Reading: Christina Rossetti, "In the Round Tower at Jhansi", *Once a Week* (13 August 1859; p. 140); "Maude Clare", *Once a Week* (5 November 1859)

Secondary Reading: Andrew Maunder, "The Effects of Context: Christina Rossetti, 'Maude Clare' and *Once a Week*", *Journal of Pre-Raphaelite Studies* 8 (Spring 1999): 34-49  
Research Article due

Week 9 (2 March) **The literary monthly**

Primary Reading: *Cornhill Magazine* 1860 [Basement Compact Shelving: AP4 C8]

Secondary Reading: *Victorian Periodicals Review* 1999, special issue on the Cornhill [e-journal]; Phegley ch 2

Week 10 (9 March) **Illustrated periodical poetry** (with Caley Ehnes)

Primary Reading: EBB, "L.E.L.'s Last Question" *Athenaeum* (Jan 26 1839--microfilm) and *The Ladies' Pocket Magazine* (1839--Google Books)

EBB, "A Musical Instrument" *The Cornhill* 2 (July 1860): 84-85

Dinah Craik, "Until Her Death" *Good Words* 2 (1862): 312

DG Rossetti, "Down Stream" *The Dark Blue* 2 (1871): 210-12 (special collections). Plus: Christina Rossetti's "If", *The Argosy* (1866) copy provided by instructor.

**Secondary Reading:** Lorraine Janzen Kooistra, "Illustrated Poetry", in *A Companion to Victorian Poetry*; Ledbetter's *British Victorian Women's Poetry*, "Editors and Magazine Poets".

Week 11 (16 March) **Working-class periodicals** (with Dr. Meagan Timney)

Primary Reading: *Penny Magazine*

E.H. "On Joseph Rayner Stephens," *Northern Star*, 18 May 1839.

F. Saunderson. "Spring Reflections," *Northern Star*, 19 May 1838.

Marie. "Trees of

Liberty". *Working Man's Friend and Family Instructor* 2.35 (29 May 1852): 142 [AP4 W65]

Ernest Jones. Hindostan: The New World. *Notes to the People*, 1854 [HD8396 N6]

**Optional Primary Readings:**

A.L., 'The Slaves' Address To British Females'. (*Northern Star* 17/2/38)

Allen Davenport. "The Poet's Hope" (*Northern Star* 11/4/46)

[available on: <http://wcwp.english.dal.ca/index.html>]

Plus: *Penny Magazine* [AP4 P44]

### Secondary Readings:

Breton, Rob. "Genre in the Chartist Periodical." *The Working-Class Intellectual in Eighteenth- and Nineteenth-Century Britain*. Ed. Aruna Krisnamurthy (Ashgate, 2009), pp. 109-27.

Boos, Florence. "The 'Homely Muse' in Her Diurnal Setting: The Periodical Poems of 'Marie,' Janet Hamilton, and Fanny Forrester." *Victorian Poetry* 39.2 (Summer 2001): 255-85.

Sanders, Michael. "'A Jackass Load of Poetry': the Nothern Star's Poetry Column 1838-1852." *The Poetry of Chartism* (Cambridge UP, 2009), pp. 69-86.

### Week 12 (23 March) **The new magazines**

**Primary Reading:** Thomas Hardy, "The Darkling Thrush" (orig. published as "By the Century's Deathbed"), *Graphic*, 19 December 1900; Christina Rossetti, "An Echo from Willowwood", *The Magazine of Art* 13: 9 (1890), p. 385.

### Week 13 (30 March) **Fin de siècle**

Primary Reading: *The Yellow Book*; *The Pagan*

Secondary Reading: Linda K. Hughes, "Women Poets and Contested Spaces in The Yellow Book."

See also: <http://www.ryerson.ca/1890s/yellowbook.htm>

### Week 14 (6 March) **Project conference**

Bring your project draft to present and discuss

### Research Project

Choose one of the following:

- Write a **critical essay** on one periodical, newspaper, magazine or annual title, exploring the importance of poetry to the publication. This essay is expected to give some breadth to the title, but also to concentrate on several issues. 20 pp., excluding notes and bibliography. Please include copies of any poems discussed as an appendix.
- Prepare a **short anthology** of Victorian poetry in the periodical press, including a 10 pp. analytical introduction (outlining the critical issues involved, plus the rationale behind inclusions and exclusions), table of contents, notes on each poem and periodical (and author, where available), plus copies of all poems to be selected. The number of poems selected depends on their length; please see me

for further guidance. But your selection should be representative of all types of media analysed on the course.

- Analyse one poem in its periodical setting, presenting the essay in a **journal article format**. This assignment is meant to flex your deep analytical skills, and the essay should examine at least some of the following: readership; immediate context in the published page; wider context in the periodical issue; relationship between author and editor (where available); cultural significances of the periodical; illustration (where applicable); any historical significance of the date of publication.
- Why do some authors choose to publish anonymously and/or pseudonymously? Write a 12 pp. **critical essay** on anonymous and/or pseudonymous publication, including an appendix with 10 examples with your close commentary (half a page per poem).
- Prepare a **bibliography** of the poems published in one periodical run (see me for guidance), along with an 8 pp. introduction examining the material you've found.
- Write a 20 pp. **literary biography** of one poet who published in the Victorian media, giving a survey of his/her relationship to this mode of publication, as well as the historical curve of their relationship to the media. The biography should address at least some of these issues: what did the Victorian media do to shape the public persona of the poet?; what was the relationship (if any) between periodical and book publication for this poet?; did the media offer any control for the poet over the growing celebrity culture?

## Biobibliography

**Primary Material:** from the library's holdings, supplemented by digital databases (see below). While a core list of primary reading will be distributed, students will also conduct their own research into uncovering the material. You will find material that has been reprinted in the periodicals, which is interesting from the perspective of developing copyright issues, but in this class we are primarily examining original poetry in the periodical.

Some key periodicals for publishing poetry, plus any indexes:

BCS= Basement Compact Shelving

- *Belgravia Magazine* [some issues available through Google Books]
- *Bentley's Miscellany* [AP4 B43 Microfiche]  
Eileen M. Curran, "Verse in *Bentley's Miscellany* vols. 1-36," *Victorian Periodicals Review* 32.2 (Summer 1999): 103-59  
<http://victorianresearch.org/curranindex.html> [for updates]
- *Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine* [AP4 B6]
- *Cornhill Magazine* [AP4 C8: BCS]
- *Dublin University Magazine* [AP4 D76]
- *Fraser's Magazine* [AP4 L57]; becomes *Longman's* from 1882

- *Graphic* [AP4 G7]
- *Household Words* [AP4 H7]; becomes *All the Year Round* from 1859 [AP4 A4]
  - Ella Ann Oppenlander, *Dickens' 'All the Year Round': Descriptive Index and Contributor List*. Troy, NY: Whitson Publishing, 1984 [not at UVic]
- *The London Journal* [AP4 L523]
  - Andrew King, *The London Journal, 1845–83: Periodicals, Production and Gender* (Aldershot, Hampshire: Ashgate, 2004)
- *Macmillan's Magazine* [MP4 A2]
  - *Poole's Index*
  - *Periodicals Contents Index*
- *Magazine of Art* [N1 M2]
  - *Poole's Index*
  - *Periodicals Contents Index*
- *Northern Star* [<http://www.ncse.ac.uk/index.html>]
- *Penny Magazine* [AP4 P44]
- *Punch* [AP101 P8]
  - *Periodicals Contents Index*
- *Scribner's Magazine* [AP2 S4; an American publication]
  - <http://digital.library.cornell.edu/s/scri/index.html>
- *Yellow Book* [AP4 Y4]
  - Mark Samuels Lasner, *The Yellow Book: a checklist and index* (The Eighteen Nineties Society, 1998)
  - <http://www.ryerson.ca/1890s/yellowbook.htm>

## Encyclopaedias

James Eli Adams. *Encyclopedia of the Victorian Era*. 4 vols. (Grolier, 2004) [DA550 E527]  
 Sally Mitchell. *Victorian Britain. An Encyclopedia* (Garland, 1998) [DA550 V49]

## On Reserve/Electronic Resources

You are expected to consult all these titles in the course of the semester.

Richard Altick, *The English Common Reader: A Social History of the Mass Reading Public, 1800-1900* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1957) [Z1003 A57]

Ann L. Ardis and Patrick Collier (eds.), *Transatlantic Print Culture, 1880-1940: Emerging Media, Emerging Modernisms* (Palgrave 2008) [e-resource]

Margaret Beetham, *A Magazine of Her Own?: Domesticity and Desire in the Woman's Magazine, 1800-1914* (Routledge, 1996) [e-resource]

Margaret Beetham and Kay Boardman (eds.), *Victorian women's magazines: an anthology* (MUP, 2001) [PR1111 W6V53]

Margaret Beetham, "Towards a Theory of the Periodical as a Publishing Genre," *Investigating Victorian Journalism*, ed. Laurel Brake, Aled Jones, and Lionel Madden (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1990) [PN5124 S6P75]



- Laurel Brake and Julie F. Codell, *Encounters in the Victorian Press: Editors, Authors, Readers* (Palgrave, 2005) [e-resource]
- Laurel Brake, Aled Jones and Lionel Madden (eds.), *Investigating Victorian Journalism* (Macmillan, 1990) [PN5124 S6P75]
- Laurel Brake, *Print in Transition, 1850–1910: Studies in Media and Book History* (Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire: Palgrave, 2001) [e-resource]
- Guglielmo Cavallo and Roger Chartier (eds.), *A History of Reading in the West*, translated by Lydia G. Cochrane (U of Massachusetts P, 1999) [Z1003.5 E9S76: BCS]
- Richard Cronin, Alison Chapman and Antony H. Harrison (eds.), *A Companion to Victorian poetry* (Blackwell, 2002) [PR591 C66]
- Alexis Easley, *First Person Anonymous: Women Writers and Victorian Print Media, 1830–70* (Ashgate, 2004) [PR115 E23]
- Kate Flint, *The Woman Reader* (Oxford: Clarendon P, 1993) [Z1039 W65F57]
- Hilary Fraser, Stephanie Green, and Judith Johnston (eds.), *Gender and the Victorian Periodical* (Cambridge UP, 2008) [PN5124 P4F73]
- Alberto Gabriele, *Reading popular culture in Victorian print: Belgravia and sensationalism* (Palgrave, 2009) [on order]
- Linda Hughes, "What the *Wellesley Index* Left Out: Why Poetry Matters to Periodical Studies", *Victorian Periodicals Review* 40: 2 (Summer 2007): 91-125 [e-journal]
- Natalie M. Houston, "Newspaper Poems: Material Texts in the Public Sphere", *Victorian Studies*, 50.2 (2008): 233-242 [e-journal]
- Linda K. Hughes, "What the *Wellesley Index* Left Out: Why Poetry Matters to Periodical Studies", *Victorian Periodicals Review* 40: 2 (Summer 2007): 91-125 (e-journal);
- Linda K. Hughes, "Women Poets and Contested Spaces in *The Yellow Book*," *SEL: Studies in English Literature* 44.4 (Autumn 2004): 849-72 [e-journal]
- Kathryn Ledbetter and Terence Allan Hoagwood (eds.), "*Colour'd Shadows*": *Contexts in Publishing, Printing, and Reading Nineteenth-Century British Women Writers* (Palgrave, 2005) [PR508 W6H63]
- John O. Jordan and Robert L. Patten, eds., *Literature in the Marketplace: Nineteenth-Century British Reading and Publishing Practices* (Cambridge UP, 1995) [Z325 L58]
- Andrew King, and John Plunkett, eds., *Popular Print Media, 1820-1900*, 3 vols (London: Routledge 2004) [on order pending budgetary approval]
- Andrew King and John Plunkett, *Victorian Print Media: a Reader* (Oxford: Oxford University Press 2005) [e-resource]
- Jon Klancher, *The Making of English Reading Audiences, 1790-1832* (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1987) [Z1003.5 G7K57]
- Lorraine Janzen Kooistra, *Christina Rossetti and Illustration: A Publishing History* (Ohio UP, 2002) [PR5238 K66]
- Aruna Krisnamurthy (ed.), *The Working-Class Intellectual in Eighteenth- and Nineteenth-Century Britain* (Ashgate, 2009)
- Kathryn Ledbetter, *British Victorian Women's Periodicals: Beauty, Civilization, Poetry* (Palgrave 2009) [e-resource]
- Kathryn Ledbetter, *Tennyson and Victorian Periodicals: Commodities in Context* (Palgrave, 2007) [PR5586 L43]
- Dallas Liddle, *The Dynamics of Genre: Journalism and the Practice of Literature in Mid-Victorian Britain* (University of Virginia Press, 2009) [PR461 L45]

Alberto Manguel, *A History of Reading* (London: Harper Collins, 1996) [Z1003 M345]  
 Richard Maxwell (ed.), *The Victorian Illustrated Book* (UP of Virginia, 2002) [NC978 V53]  
 Barbara Onslow, *Women of the Press in Nineteenth-Century Britain* (Palgrave, 2001)  
 [PN5124 W58 O59]  
 Jennifer Phegley, *Educating the Proper Woman Reader: Victorian Family Literary Magazines  
 and Cultural Health of the Nation* (Ohio State UP, 2004) [PR468 W6P48]  
 Mike Sanders, *The Poetry of Chartism* (Cambridge UP, 2009) [on order]  
 Clifford Siskin, *Work of Writing: Literature and Social Change in Britain: 1700-1830* (Johns  
 Hopkins UP, 1998) [PR448 S64S57]  
 Herbert Tucker (ed.), *A Companion to Victorian Literature and Culture* (Blackwell, 1999)  
 [PR461 C594]  
 Mark Turner, "Periodical Time in the Nineteenth Century," *Media History* 8: 2 (2002):  
 183-196 [e-journal]  
 Mark Turner, "Time, Periodicals, and Literary Studies", *Victorian Periodicals Review*, 39:  
 4 (Winter 2006): 309-316 [e-journal]  
 J. Don Vann and Rosemary VanArsdel (eds.), *Victorian Periodicals and Victorian Society*  
 (U of Toronto P, 1994) [PN 5124 P4V53]  
 David Vincent, *Literacy and Popular Culture: England 1750-1914* (Cambridge UP, 1989)  
 [LC156 G72E58]  
 Geoffrey Wakeman, *Victorian Book Illustration: The Technical Revolution* (David and  
 Charles, 1973) [NC978 W35]  
 Catherin Waters, *Commodity Culture in Dickens' Household Words: The Social Life of Goods*  
 (Ashgate, 2008) [PN5130 H6W35]

### Digital Resources:

- *19th Century British Library Newspapers* [UVic database]
- *19th Century UK Periodicals* [UVic database]
- *Defining Gender, 1450-1900* [includes some fashion journals] UVic database
- *Forget-Me-Not: A Hyper-Textual Archive*  
<http://www.orgs.muohio.edu/anthologies/FMN/>
- *The Germ: A Hyper-Media Edition:*  
<http://www2.iath.virginia.edu/courses/ennc986/germ.html>
- *Nineteenth-Century Serials Edition* <http://www.ncse.ac.uk/index.html>
- *Periodicals Archive Online* [UVic database]
- *Periodicals Index Online* [UVic database]
- *The Poetess Archive* <http://www.poetessarchive.com/>
- *Poole's Index* [Google Books]
- [www.victorianweb.org](http://www.victorianweb.org)
- <http://victorianresearch.org>
- VanArsdel's updated *Victorian Periodicals: A Guide to Research*  
<http://victorianresearch.org/periodicals.html>
- *Waterloo Directory of English Newspapers and Periodicals, 1800-1900* [UVic database]
- *Wellesley Index to Victorian Periodicals* [UVic database]
- *Working-Class Women Poets* <http://wcp.english.dal.ca/>