

Undisciplining The Victorian Classroom

Peer-Reviewed Syllabus

Peer Reviewer: Amy Wong

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ENGL 2030 Encountering Intercultural Literature Women of the Nineteenth Century

Dr. Yangjung Lee (She) ylee13@seattleu.edu



Figure 1. Victorian Gouramma (1854)

From 1837 to 1901, a woman ruled one of the largest empires in the world. Victoria was queen, empress, wife, mother, and an icon. What did the lives of women look under her rule in the British empire and beyond? In this course, we will encounter how diverse women in various parts of the world—the US, the Caribbean, East and South Asia, and England—experienced their daily lives and strove to represent themselves in writing. These women faced the intersections of political, ideological, religious, and economic oppression such as patriarchy, racism, settler colonialism, and imperialism. Perhaps unsurprisingly, some women were complicit in these systems, helping to consolidate and proliferate these structures. What do intersections of race, ethnicity, gender, and sexuality offer us in understanding the lives of women in the nineteenth century?

Who was considered to be human, let alone a “woman”? How did women represent themselves, and how were they seen by others? How did they contribute to the spread of tyranny? How did they resist oppression and build solidarity? We will ask these questions as we explore three aspects of their lives—education; love and marriage; religion and empire.

Required Texts

The following books are available through the Campus Store, online bookstores, and local bookshops such as Elliott Bay. Please get the editions listed below.

- Anonymous, *The Woman of Colour* (Broadview)
- Charlotte Bronte, *Jane Eyre* (Penguin)
- Mary Prince, *The History of Mary Prince* (Penguin)

The following texts will be provided as pdfs on Canvas.

- Harriette Shelton Dover, selections from *Tulalip, From My Heart*
- Toru Dutt, selected poems
- Frances E.W. Harper, selected poems and essays
- Lady Hyegyŏng, selections from *The Memoirs of Lady Hyegyŏng*

- Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain, "Sultana's Dream"
- Krupabai Satthianadhan, *Saguna*

Course Goals

This course is designed to help you develop the following:

- an ability to close read and interpret a variety of literary texts in multiple genres;
- an awareness of how intersections of race, class, gender, sexuality, and national history shape literary studies;
- an awareness of how literature undoes and restructures normative notions of race, class, gender, sexuality, and national/imperial history;
- your ability to write and speak effectively for different audiences and purposes.



Figure 2. Princess Victoria Gouramma (1852) by Franz Xaver Winterhalter

Upon successful completion of this course:

- You will be more practiced at close reading, using textual details to support critical arguments while understanding the difference between latent and projected textual meaning.
- You will develop a historical sensitivity to textual, contextual, and intertextual literary production.
- You will become familiar with a variety of literary genres—learning to read form as a mode of conveying meaning.
- You will learn to use MLA citation conventions correctly in your writing.

Course Requirements Detailed assignment descriptions are on Canvas

Requirements	Due Date
In-Class and Homework Activities (30%) These low-stakes activities are designed to help you in your understanding of the texts, critical thinking skills, the writing process, and the papers you will be completing. Participation in discussion is included in in-class activities.	On Going
Close Readings (30%) Three 3-page close reading papers, worth 10% each, on one of the texts we cover for each unit. You may write on <i>Jane Eyre</i> only once. Specific prompts will be distributed for each paper that will ask you to be very careful readers of a specific textual moment (attending at certain points to literary language) and considering how the particular textual moment produces its meaning.	#1: 4/12 #2: 5/3 #3: 6/3

Discussion Leader (15%) Each Friday during Weeks 3-9 students will sign up to become discussion leaders, preparing a "lesson" for our class. You will submit Talking Points (1 page) prior to the class and a reflection (1-2 pages) afterwards.	Sign up Week 1 Talking points: 5% Discussion: 5% Reflections: 5%
Archival Project and Presentation (25%) 3-4-page paper on 1-2 primary sources from a digital archive such as <i>One More Voice</i> , <i>Colonial Caribbean</i> , <i>Empire Online</i> , or <i>India Raj and Empire</i> (see Canvas for links). 5-minute presentation of the research on Week 10.	Paper (20%): 6/3 Presentation (5%): Week 10

Reading Schedule

Please read the assignments in preparation for the day they are listed. The schedule is subject to revision depending on our progress this quarter.

Week	Date	Assigned Materials and Deadlines
WEEK ONE	M 3/25	Course Introduction
Women's Education		
WEEK ONE	W 3/27	Readings Indian Boarding Schools in the Pacific Northwest Introduction to archives: Carlisle Indian School Digital Resource Center
	F 3/29	Readings "Foreward," "Introduction," "Prologue" from <i>Tulalip, From My Heart</i> Richard Pratt, excerpts from "The Advantages of Mingling Indians with Whites"
WEEK TWO	M 4/1	Readings "Tulalip Indian School" and "The Tulalip Indian School Schedule" from <i>Tulalip, From My Heart</i>
	W 4/3	Readings <i>Jane Eyre</i> Ch 1-9
	F 4/5	Readings <i>Jane Eyre</i> Ch 10-15
WEEK THREE	M 4/8	Readings Selections from <i>Memoirs of Lady Hyegyöng</i> Haboush's introduction to the <i>Memoirs</i>
	W 4/10	Synthesis Day
	F 4/12	Student-led Discussions

		Women's Love and Marriage
WEEK FOUR	M 4/15	<i>Reading</i> <i>The History of Mary Prince</i>
	W 4/17	<i>Readings</i> <i>The History of Mary Prince</i>
	F 4/19	<i>Readings</i> <i>The Woman of Colour</i> , vol. 1 Student-led Discussion
WEEK FIVE	M 4/22	<i>Readings</i> <i>The Woman of Colour</i> , vol. 2
	W 4/24	<i>Readings</i> <i>Jane Eyre</i> Ch. 16-20
	F 4/26	<i>Student-led Discussions</i>
WEEK SIX	M 4/29	<i>Readings</i> <i>Jane Eyre</i> Ch. 21-26 Harper, "The Two Offers"
	W 5/1	<i>Synthesis Day</i>
	F 5/3	<i>Student-led Discussion</i>
		Women's Work
WEEK SEVEN	M 5/6	<i>Readings</i> <i>Jane Eyre</i> Ch. 27-32
	W 5/8	<i>Readings</i> <i>Jane Eyre</i> Ch. 33-38
	F 5/10	Student-led Discussion
WEEK EIGHT	M 5/13	<i>Readings</i> Harper, "Bible Defense of Slavery" and "Christianity" Selections from <i>Memoirs of Lady Hyegyōng</i>
	W 5/15	<i>Readings</i> Toru Dutt, select poems Govin Dutt, "Prefatory Memoir"
	F 5/17	<i>Student-led Discussions</i>
WEEK NINE	M 5/20	<i>Readings</i> Krupabai Satthianadhan, <i>Saguna</i> 1-5 (19-86)
	W 5/22	<i>Readings</i> Krupabai Satthianadhan, <i>Saguna</i> 6-9 (87-164) John Murdoch, "Mrs. S. Satthianadhan" from <i>Sketches of Indian Christians</i>

	F 5/24	<i>Student-led Discussions</i>
WEEK TEN	M 5/27	<i>Readings</i> Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain, "Sultana's Dream" Chitra Ganesh, Illustrations to "Sultana's Dream"
	W 5/29	<i>Readings</i> Harper "We Are All Bound Up Together" <i>Synthesis Day</i>
	F 5/31	<i>Final Project Presentations</i>