

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
Department of History

SEMESTER I 1984-85

<u>COURSE NO.</u>	<u>COURSE TITLE</u>	<u>INSTRUCTOR</u>
572	<u>Undergraduate Seminar: Victorian England</u>	Mr. Donnelly

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The continual reinterpretation of Victorian politics, society, and culture is one good measure of the persistent fascination of that era for later generations. In this seminar we will begin our studies with a major work of synthesis, partly in order to establish some common foundation of knowledge about the period, and partly to stimulate discussion about the defining characteristics and the dynamics of this society. We will then turn to a small number of the classic contemporary texts: to Engels, for an account of the consequences of early industrialism and the development of the class system; to Bagehot, for an analysis of how the political system worked before the coming of democracy; to Hughes, for treatment of the role of elite education and "muscular Christianity" in the culture; and to Darwin, for an appreciation of the intellectual revolution and the Victorian "crisis of faith."

LECTURES

Meetings once a week, each meeting to last two hours; all meetings to be devoted to discussion of the required readings.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS AND EXAMINATIONS

A research proposal of about fifteen pages focusing on a question or a set of related questions needing scholarly investigation, and stating the methods and sources to be used in the search for answers.

GRADING SYSTEM

1. Research proposal (50 percent)
2. Informed participation in seminar discussions (50 percent)

REQUIRED READINGS

Bagehot, Walter, The English Constitution (Cornell University Press paperback).
Beales, Derek, From Castlereagh to Gladstone, 1815-1885 (Norton paperback).

- Briggs, Asa, Victorian People (University of Chicago Press paperback).
- Darwin, Charles, The Autobiography of Charles Darwin (Norton paperback).
- Engels, Friedrich, The Condition of the Working Class in England (Stanford University Press paperback).
- Hughes, Thomas, Tom Brown's School Days (Airmont paperback).
- Vincent, John, The Formation of the British Liberal Party, 1857-68 (Penguin paperback).