

ENGL 512: SEMINAR  
IN VICTORIAN  
LITERATURE

PEDAGOGY & METHOD

THE PROBLEM:

HOW TO EFFECTIVELY  
ENGAGE A VERY  
HETEROGENEOUS  
STUDENT COHORT

## 2 “PATHS”

- **“PATH 1”**: READINGS FOR DISCUSSION, IN-CLASS EXERCISES, AND EXAMS
- **“PATH 2”**: READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS FOR SMALL GROUPS OF 3-4 STUDENTS

# DAILY WARM-UPS

- **READING QUIZZES (5 QUESTIONS OR ESSAY)**
- **WRITTEN REFLECTIONS (CONCEPTUAL, EXPERIENTIAL)**
- **DISCUSSION OF PRE-CLASS 5-10 MINUTE FILM CLIP, MUSICAL PIECE, OR SLIDESHOW**

# MINI-LECTURES

- **LENGTH: 20-30 MINUTES, OCCASIONALLY LONGER**
- **CONTENT: HISTORY, BIOGRAPHY, CONCEPTS, PASSAGE ANALYSIS, INTERACTIVE QUESTIONS**
- **MEDIA: TEXT, ART, PHOTOS, MUSIC, AND THE OCCASIONAL DIAGRAM**

# CLASS DISCUSSION

- **GOAL: TO ENCOURAGE CLOSE READING, AND ANALYSIS, AND QUESTIONING**
- **METHODS**
  - **SINGLE STUDENT PRESENTATION & FACILITATION OF CLASS DISCUSSION (M.A. COURSE)**
  - **ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION OF STUDY QUESTIONS**
  - **DISCUSSION OF STUDENT-GENERATED QUESTIONS**
  - **CHOREOGRAPHED DEBATES BETWEEN SEPARATE HALVES OF THE CLASS, OR SMALL GROUPS**
  - **SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION, FOLLOWED BY REPORT TO CLASS & FIELDING OF CLASS QUESTIONS**

# SMALL GROUP EXERCISES

- **MAD LIBS: CREATED FROM ASSIGNED POEMS OR KEY PASSAGES RIPPED FROM FICTION**
- **ORGANIZATION & ARGUMENTATION: STUDENTS PERUSE TEXTUAL EVIDENCE (PASSAGES) I PROVIDE ON HANDOUT, AND GENERATE DEBATABLE ARGUMENT**
- **ANALYSIS OF ADAPTATION: STUDENTS CONSIDER A CINEMATIC OR COMIC BOOK RENDERING OF KEY SCENES FROM AN ASSIGNED TEXT; STUDENTS EXAMINE VOICE, TONE, CHARACTER, THEME, ETC.**

# SMALL GROUP KINETIC ACTIVITIES

- TABLEAUX VIVANTS
- DRAWING ON BOARD
- READER'S THEATER
- STAGED & BLOCKED ACTING OF SCENE

# PATH 1: ASSESSMENT

- **INTERMITTENT PARTICIPATION GRADES**
- **MULTIPLE MIDTERM EXAMS**
- **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

# PATH 2: ASSESSMENT

- **2-3 SHORT (400-500 WORD) ESSAYS RESPONDING TO ONE OF THE SPECIFIC PROMPTS OFFERED EACH WEEK FOR THE INDIVIDUAL READINGS ASSIGNED TO EACH PATH 2 GROUP OF 3-4 STUDENTS**
- **2-3 THIRTY-MINUTE DISCUSSION SESSIONS (IN DR. M'S OFFICE) OF EACH PATH 2 GROUP'S ASSIGNED READINGS FOR A GIVEN WEEK**
- **TERM PAPER, PRECEDED BY SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (W/ DR.M) OF ARGUMENT OUTLINES AND SAMPLE PAGES OF NASCENT TERM PAPERS**