Course Description: For all their talk about moral virtue and honesty, the Victorians loved a good secret. Locked doors, hidden identities, and the occult filled the pages of literature and tapped into the culture’s fascination with the forbidden. Not only did writers use the secret as a narrative device for luring readers through their texts, but they also used it thematically to give form to the fantasies/preoccupations of their readers: sexual deviancy, madness, monsters, and crime. In this class we will read novels, short stories, poetry, and prose written during the long reign of Queen Victoria (1837 - 1901) to better understand the complexities of Victorian life and the power of not knowing in a culture obsessed with knowledge.

Required Books:
Braddon, Mary Elizabeth. *Lady Audley’s Secret* (Oxford)
Bronte, Charlotte. *Jane Eyre* (Penguin)
Dickens, Charles. *Oliver Twist* (Oxford)
Stevenson, Robert Louis. *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*
Stoker, Bram. *Dracula* (Oxford)
Selected readings on Blackboard
Learning Outcomes: Students will
- understand the social, political context of the Victorian period and make links between social forces and literature;
- build proficiency in analyzing literature in both oral and written forms;
- demonstrate proficiency in finding and evaluating secondary sources and using them to build a researched argument.

Course Requirements:
- Attendance: Obviously, you must come to class. After three absences, your final grade will be lowered two points for each additional absence. The seminar will be discussion-based, which means that your active participation is essential for your own success as well as for that of the class.
- Class work: Besides your contributions to class discussion, you will be evaluated on the quality of your in-class and outside-of-class writings (impromptu quizzes, mini-analyses, blackboard postings), and group work. If you must miss class, please contact another student to catch up on what you missed and to find out about any work that has been assigned for the next class period. It is your responsibility to stay abreast of all assignments, even those that are impromptu.
- Late work: I do not accept late work unless you have contacted me at least two days before the due date. More than one occurrence will result in a grade penalty.
- Paired Presentation: Working in pairs, each of you will make a presentation to the class that enhances and/or complicates our understanding of the Victorians. As you research your topic (I will give you a range of choices) you will keep an eye out for links between this past culture and our own. In what ways are we Victorian?
- Formal Writing: You will write two critical essays (4 - 5 pages each) and a longer research essay (8 - 10 pages), in which you make connections between course content and your identified area of study. This will be due on the day scheduled for our final exam.
- Creative project: In addition to formal writing, you will produce a project that adapts your own impressions and understandings of the Victorians into creative form.

Important Information and Miscellany:
- Prerequisites: You must have successfully completed English 1301 and 1302 to be eligible for this class.
- Keep copies of your work: It is your responsibility to keep backup copies of all of your work in the case of an error or misplacement on my part.
- Notice to Students with Disabilities: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability
Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall 116. If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom, or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance.

- **Academic Advising:** The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any amendment must be approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and requirements specified in the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood #203. For more information please call 361-825-3466.

- **Grade Appeal Process:** As stated in University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Rule13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, and University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Website at [http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html](http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.

- **Academic Honesty:** Plagiarism, “the presentation of work of another as one’s own work,” is only one form of academic dishonesty. Plagiarism also includes falsification (the intentional alteration of information), fabrication (the intentional invention of information), multiple submission (using the same material for two separate assignments or courses without permission from the instructors), and abuse of academic materials (the intentional destruction of resource materials.) Sometimes students commit unintentional plagiarism (by not citing sources properly, for example) because they are unaware of the standards that apply. Because plagiarism is such a dirty word on college campuses, please see me if you have a question about violations, however minor.

- **Cell Phones, Laptops:** You must turn off your cell phones before class begins. Failing to abide by this classroom protocol can affect your grade. Laptops should only be used for taking notes—enough said. If you choose to leave class to answer a phone call, do not return—coming and going is very distracting.

- **The Writing Center:** The writing center is a free service for students at TAMUCC to improve their writing skills. Writing consultants work one-on-one with writers at all stages of the writing process to help them find ideas, organize their thoughts, and formulate a thesis. You can get help with grammar and general mechanical problems too. The Writing Center is located in the Center for Academic Student Achievement (CASA) in the Glasscock Building. Both drop
ins and scheduled appointments are welcome.
http://critical.tamucc.edu/wiki/WC/Home/

**Grade Break-down:**
- Class work: 30
  - Participation 10
  - Quizzes, prompted writing 10
  - Presentation 10
- Short essays 30
- Research essay 25
- Creative project 15

**Reading Schedule:** (Always subject to change. Works with asterisks (*) can be accessed from my blackboard page. Please print out, read, and bring to class.

- **Thur. 1/22:** Introductions and course overview
- **Tues. 1/27:**
  - “The Victorian Age”
  - “Secrecy”
  - “Bluebeard”

**Secrets of London**
- **Thur. 1/29:** Oliver Twist
- **Tues. 2/3:** Oliver Twist
  - Group Presentation: Victorian Workhouse
- **Thur. 2/5:**
  - Browning’s “The Cry of the Children”
  - Hood’s “The Song of the Shirt”
  - excerpts from Mayhew’s *London Labour London Poor*
- **Tues. 2/10:** Oliver Twist
- **Thur. 2/12:**
  - Rossetti’s “Jenny”
  - Patmore’s “Angel in the House”
  - excerpt from Walkowitz’s *Prostitution and Victorian Society*
  - Group Presentation: Angels and Fallen Women
- **Tues. 2/17:** Oliver Twist

**Domestic Secrets**
- **Thur. 2/19:**
  - Browning’s poetry
  - Group Presentation: Secret Languages (Fans and Flowers)
Essay #1 due

Tues. 2/24  Jane Eyre (preface – chapter 12)

Thur. 2/26  Jane Eyre (chapter 13 – 20)
Group Presentation: The Victorian Governess

Tues. 3/3  Jane Eyre (chap 21 – 29)
Group Presentation: Lunacy and Marriage Laws

Thur. 3/5:  Jane Eyre (chap 30 to end)

Tues. 3/10: * Diaries of Hannah Cullwick
Group Presentation: Victorian Servants

Masks and Murders

Thurs. 3/12:  Lady Audley’s Secret (chap 1 – 12)

Fri. 3/13:   Essay #2 due

Tues. 3/17 – 19  SPRING BREAK!!

Tues. 3/24:  Lady Audley’s Secret (vol 1, chap 13 – vol.2, chap 6)
Group Presentation: Sensation Fiction

Thur. 3/26:  Lady Audley’s Secret (vol 2, chap 7 – vol 3, chap 1)
Group Presentation: PreRaphaelite Art Movement

Tues. 3/31:  Lady Audley’s Secret (vol 3, chap 2 – end)

Thur. 4/2:  Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde

Tues. 4/7:  Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde
Research proposal due

Victorian Epistemology: Ways of Knowing

Thur. 4/9:  Eliot’s “The Lifted Veil”
Group Presentation: Seances, mindreading, spiritualism

Tues. 4/14:  Dracula (chap 1 – 9)
Annotated bibliography due

Thurs. 4/16:  Dracula (chap 10 – 16)
Group Presentation: Vampires in Popular Culture
Tues. 4/21:  Creative projects due
Thurs. 4/23:  Dracula (to end)
Tues. 4/28:  Wide Sargasso Sea
Thurs. 4/30:  Wide Sargasso Sea
  Group Presentation: British Empire—the Caribbean
  Draft due
Tues. 5/5    Last day of class: Victorian games!
Final date:  Research project due