

# NINETEENTH-CENTURY HISTORICAL NARRATIVES

HUMS 410 (“Modernities”) / ENGL 262 / HIST 262J

M/W 11:35-12:50

WLH 013

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Walter Scott is said to have invented the modern historical novel when he published *Waverley* in 1814. This team-taught seminar will read historical novels, as well as other varieties of historical writing from the nineteenth century, to consider how the British imagined their relationship to the past. Historical novels negotiated the interplay between the individual and nation (and thus also between personal memory and public memory). Historians, similarly, theorized the relative impacts of individual action and larger forces. We will situate texts within their broader cultural framework. Topics will include: the Jacobite legacy, the French Revolution, the Renaissance revival, neo-medievalism, philosophies of history, and the genre of the historical novel.

## Texts:

Course materials are available at the Yale Bookstore:

<https://tinyurl.com/YALE-HUMS-410-F18>. **PLEASE NOTE: THEY WILL BE SHELVED UNDER HUMS 410.** For pricing information, see the website.

You **must use these editions** to avoid much searching around in class, since we will be referring to page numbers:

Sir Walter Scott, *Waverley, or 'Tis Sixty Years Since* (OUP), ISBN-13: 9780198716594

Charles Dickens, *A Tale of Two Cities*, (OUP), ISBN-13: 9780199536238

George Eliot, *Romola*, (Penguin), ISBN-13: 9780140434705

Robert Louis Stevenson, *Kidnapped* (OUP), ISBN-13: 9780199674213

Course Materials labeled with an \* will be available on the Canvas server.

## Requirements:

1. Regular (and prompt) *attendance* and *participation* (see details below).

2. *Papers*: You are required to write **one 5-7 page midterm paper and one 15 page final paper** (if you wish, you may also expand the midterm paper for your final essay, but then the resultant essay should incorporate 15 pp. of new work). Both essays must be properly formatted and proofread; they should also include a bibliography. You may, if you wish, **revise** the mid-term essay; the final grade for the paper will be the average of your original grade and your revision grade. Requirements for these essays will vary slightly according to the major toward which you intend to apply the course.

## Attendance and Late Papers:

*Attendance*: While we would always like to be informed if you are going to miss a class (either in person or by e-mail), we will not start to inquire too deeply into your absence until the *third*

absence. At this stage, *your grade will go down*, unless you can give us a good, *documented* excuse for why you have been absent and do whatever make-up assignment we devise.

*Promptness:* Tardiness is extremely disruptive in section, and it may cause you to miss important information. We may not say anything about it, but we notice when you are late. *Even if we don't say anything to you*, repeated tardiness will affect the classroom participation portion of your grade.

*Papers:* We will give each of you one “free pass” to be *three days* late on one paper, not including the prospectus or revision (that means, a paper due Friday can be turned in on Monday). Note: *any* other late papers must be accompanied by a dean’s excuse to receive full credit, no matter what the circumstances. Papers unaccompanied by an excuse will be marked down at the rate of a half grade per day (B+ becomes B).

### **Grading:**

Participation, etc.: 30%

Midterm essay: 30%

Final essay: 40%

### **Schedule:**

Aug. 29	<i>readings distributed in class:</i> •Adam Smith, extract from <i>Lectures on Rhetoric and Belles Lettres</i> (1748-51). * •Hugh Blair, extract from <i>Lectures on Rhetoric and Belles Lettres</i> (1785). * •Maria Edgeworth, extract from <i>Castle Rackrent</i> (1800), preface. * •Jane Austen, extract from <i>Northanger Abbey</i> (1817). * •Thomas Babington Macaulay, extract from review of Henry Hallam, <i>The Constitutional History of England</i> , in <i>Edinburgh Review</i> (Sept. 1828), 96-98. * •J. R. Green, <i>A Short History of the English People</i> (1875). *
Aug. 31 (F)	•Walter Scott, <i>Waverley</i> (1814), through I.xiv (p. 74).
Sept. 3	<i>Labor Day—no class</i>
Sept. 5	• <i>Waverley</i> , through II.xi (p. 189). •Scott, “Dedicatory Epistle” to <i>Ivanhoe</i> (1820), selections distributed in class.
Sept. 10	• <i>Waverley</i> , through III.viii (p. 287).
Sept. 12	• <i>Waverley</i> , complete (p. 371). •Scott’s anonymous review of his own (anonymously published) <i>Tales of My Landlord</i> , <i>Quarterly Review</i> (Jan. 1817), 430-32. *
Sept. 17	•Georg Lukács, <i>The Historical Novel</i> , 19-63. * •Jane Austen, “A Brief History of England” (1791). *
Sept. 19	<i>Yom Kippur—no class</i>
Sept. 24	•Thomas Babington Macaulay, <i>The History of England from the Accession of James the Second</i> (orig. 4 vols. and 1 posthumous vol., 1848-59; we’re using a later 3-volume edition), 1:13-16, 23-27, 34-44, 48-53, 257-63, 318-22, 326-29, 337-38, 382-86; 2:190, 253-60, 334-38, 376, 391-98; 3:327-28. * •[Sir James Moncrieff], review of Macaulay, in <i>Edinburgh Review</i> (July 1849), 249-61, 291-92. *
Sept. 26	•Thomas Carlyle, “The Diamond Necklace” (1837). *

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| Oct. 1  | • Carlyle, <i>The French Revolution</i> (1837), 1:9-21, 79-85, 295-310; 2:35-40, 64-66; 3:432-48. *             |
|         | • Carlyle, “The Hero as King,” from <i>On Heroes, Hero-Worship, and the Heroic in History</i> (1840), 232-42. * |
| Oct. 3  | • Charles Dickens, <i>A Tale of Two Cities</i> (1859), I.1-II.5 (p. 87).  |
| Oct. 8  | • <i>A Tale of Two Cities</i> , II.6-II.16 (p. 179).  |
| Oct. 10 | • <i>A Tale of Two Cities</i> , II.17-III.3 (p. 258).   |

**Monday, Oct. 15      midterm paper (5-7 pp.) due in class**

*Fall Break—no class on Oct. 17*

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| Oct. 22 | •Henry Thomas Buckle, <i>History of Civilization in England</i> (1857), 1:1-26, 47-50, 87-89, 99-100, 109-11, 140-46, 154-61, 168-71, 182-84, 197-208. *   |
| Oct. 24 | •[Lord Acton], “Mr. Buckle’s Thesis and Method,” <i>The Rambler</i> (July 1858), 27-42. *  |
|         | •Review of Buckle’s <i>History of Civilization</i> , <i>Christian Observer</i> (Sept. 1858), 685-707. *  |
| Oct. 29 | •George Eliot, <i>Romola</i> (1862-63), through ch. 10 (p. 113).   |
| Oct. 31 | • <i>Romola</i> , through Bk I, ch. 20 (p. 201).<br>•[George Eliot], “Silly Novels by Lady Novelists,” in <i>Westminster Review</i> (Oct. 1856), 458-61. * |

- Nov. 12      •*Romola*, complete (p. 583).
  - Nov. 14      •Augustus Welby Pugin, *Contrasts* (1836), iii-v, 1-7, and illustrations. \*
  - John Ruskin, “On the Nature of Gothic,” from *The Stones of Venice* (1851-53), as reprinted in *On the Nature of Gothic Architecture* (1854), 4-11. \*

*Wednesday, Nov. 14*      optional revision due in class

## *Thanksgiving break*

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| Nov. 26 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Walter Pater, from <i>The Renaissance</i> (1873), “Preface,” “Leonardo da Vinci,” “Conclusion.” *</li> <li>•Pater, <i>Marius the Epicurean</i> (1885), chap. 12 (“The Divinity That Doth Hedge a King”). *</li> </ul>                              |
| Nov. 28 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Robert Browning, <i>The Ring and the Book</i> (1868-69), Book I. *</li> <li>•Browning, “The Bishop Orders his Tomb at Saint Praxed’s Church” (1845). *</li> <li>•Browning, “How They Brought the Good News From Ghent to Aix” (1845). *</li> </ul> |
| Dec. 3  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Robert Louis Stevenson, <i>Kidnapped</i>, (1893), through ch. 15.</li> </ul>   |
| Dec. 5  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•<i>Kidnapped</i>, chs. 16-30.</li> </ul>   |

*Thursday, Dec. 13*      *final paper due*