

## Exam One Take-Home Essay Questions

Choose **one** of the following questions and write an essay in answer that is at least 1,500 words (about 5 pages). You should use your anthology and *Dracula* for quotations and other supporting material, but do not use any other outside sources. You may only choose texts that we read on and after Tuesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Your essay must be in **MLA format**. Be sure to put the number of the question you are answering below your name on the first page of your essay. Essays are due at the beginning of class on Tuesday, October 10<sup>th</sup>.

- 1) Throughout the last few weeks, we have often discussed the role of outsiders in Victorian literature in terms of characters, authors, literary movements, and social reform movements. Choose one author and discuss how she or he mobilizes the idea of the outsider in order to make an argument about the current state Victorian culture in general. Keep in mind that the outsider-ness of the text could be the author's viewpoint, the character in the text, and/or the text's argument itself.
- 2) As they seek to define the city and/or the poor, many of the writers we have read spend a great of time considering the current unhealthy state of Victorian society and arguing for a particular way of curing those social ills to make England healthy and strong once again. Choose two authors and compare and contrast both their critiques and plans for improvements (keep in mind that the reforms suggested may be implicit rather than explicit).
- 3) In our discussions of gender in the Victorian period, we have returned repeatedly to the idea that masculinity and femininity are mutually dependent. Choose one author and explore the ways in which she/he establishes the differences and interconnections between these two gender constructions. Be sure to address what the significance of those differences in terms of more general Victorian constructions of gender.
- 4) Constructions of gender played a large part in the ways in which the Industrial Revolution affected Victorian England. Choose either femininity **or** masculinity and discuss how **two** different works connect gender and industrialization. You must, of course, define how each author constructs the gender identity you are focusing on, as well as what that particular author means by industrialization. In addition, be sure to pay attention how class differences inflect the construction of gender you are writing about.