



UNIVERSITY of PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

people • excellence • impact

HIST3620 – Victorian Britain
Winter 2021 - T/Th 11:30 AM - 12:45 PM
Dr. Susan Brown

The Victorian age was one of progress and prosperity, its hero the great capitalist entrepreneur, businessman or the captain of industry. Commerce was the great emancipator, liberating society from the shackles of the past, advancing morality and social happiness—or so the burgeoning middle class claimed. But beneath this veneer of smug self-satisfaction, there was a much darker dimension to Victorian Britain—a Britain characterised by crushing poverty, appalling industrial slums, choking pollution and new and especially nasty diseases.

This course explores British social, political and cultural history in the nineteenth century, including the nature of the changes sweeping British society, particularly those associated with Britain's congested cities and the urban working class. The anxieties and fears generated by these changes will constitute the focus of this course. The course challenges many popular stereotypes of the "Victorian Age" through its exploration of family life, poverty, sexuality, crime, drugs, disease and death in the Victorian city.



One of the defining moments of Victoria's reign came with the opening of the Great Exhibition in 1851.



UNIVERSITY of PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

people • excellence • impact

HIST3120 - Themes and Debates in History
Winter 2021 - M/W 3:00 - 4:15 PM
Dr. James Moran



The Thinker (Auguste Rodin, 1903)

This course examines the diverse ways in which history has been understood, perceived and written during the twentieth century. As most upper level undergraduate students no doubt realise, history is not something to simply *know*, but to understand, and understanding inevitably requires interpretation. As we shall see, over the twentieth century, the art of historical writing (the way historians have interpreted their subjects) has been heavily influenced by a range of theoretical perspectives. When a group of influential historians share a similar interpretation, a “school” of history tends to develop. In this course we will examine 10 of the most influential schools of historical interpretation in the twentieth century, most of which still greatly affect how historians think about the history that they write.