

Course Title: Charles Dickens & Emile Zola: Britain, France and the Industrial Revolution.  
Instructor: Susan Turnbull Shoemaker

Brief Description: We will be exploring experiences of free-market, free-labor capitalism, utilitarianism and the Industrial Revolution in 19<sup>th</sup>-century Britain and France through Dickens's *Hard Times* and Zola's *Germinal*.

Schedule – 13-Week session.

NOTE: I have not yet received my copies of *Hard Times* and *Germinal*, so the week-by-week topics are not set. They will include, not necessarily in order:

- 1- biography of Charles Dickens & the place of *Hard Times* in his body of work;
- 2- biography of Emile Zola & the place of *Germinal* in his body of work;
- 3 – free-market, free-labor capitalism & the ways it differed from what went before;
- 4- Utilitarianism & the raising children;
- 5- Textile mills & the condition of their workforce, through 2 characters;
- 6- the role of the Circus;
- 7- workers' actions to improve wages and their working conditions;
- 8- women's roles and status;
- 9- middle-class marriage;
- 10- coal mining & working conditions in the mines; use of female & child labor in them;
- 11- sexuality, particularly adolescent sexuality;
- 12- agitators and strike actions;
- 13- the role of family;
- 14 – the plot of & characters in the two books;
- 15 – comparison of the novels: similarities and differences.

If there is a problem with this, please let me know!  
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Week 1 – Topic  
Week 2 – Topic  
Week 3 - Topic  
Week 4 – Topic  
Week 5 – Topic  
Week 6 – Topic  
Week 5 – Topic  
Week 6 – Topic  
Week 7 – Topic  
Week 8 – Topic

Week 9 – Topic

Week 10 – Topic

Week 11 – Topic

Week 12 – Topic

Week 13 – Topic