Answer TWO of the following three questions. In each answer you should focus on two works from the pensum, for a total of four different works. Among those four works should be at least one novel and one work of poetry, and ideally one work of non-fiction prose as well. The “recommended” texts are fair game to concentrate on, and you may also refer briefly to other works on the pensum or works from the British Periodicals database. You may also use scholarly secondary literature to inform your answers to the questions (and indeed the best answers will engage with peer-reviewed secondary literature).

The exam will be submitted through Inspera. Please upload your exams as PDF files (not as doc files, please), and follow the same formatting instructions as for the obligatory assignments in this course. That is, 1.5 space and use Times New Roman or equivalent; always indent the first line of each paragraph and DO NOT leave a space between paragraphs. Always include a Works Cited list (MLA style is preferable, although MHRA or others are all right as long as you are consistent). Come up with a good title of your own; don’t just repeat the question.

There are multiple approaches to each question. You should be sure to develop a convincing thesis (don’t just be descriptive) and write a coherent short essay for each assignment. This should not be in point form; don’t overuse subheadings (and indeed you should probably avoid them altogether). Good answers will likely be around 1500 words or perhaps more for EACH essay. Do not think of these length limits as set in stone, but of course you should understand how important it is to delete irrelevant or weak material.

1: According to your experience of the works we have studied this term, how correct is one of our sage writers in referring to the nineteenth century as “The Mechanical Age”?

2: Karl Marx’s thesis of the alienation of the worker from the labour evolved in the context of the Victorian industrial revolution. In what ways do two of the writers here problematize the relationship of the worker to his or her work? Remember that illegal work is still work, and that writing is also work.

3: Death scenes abound in Victorian literature. How do male and female characters or speakers engage differently (or similarly) with the death of a loved one?