

Charles Dickens: *Hard Times* & *A Tale of Two Cities*

NEH Summer Seminar
for School Teachers

www.DickensNEH2016.com



Hosted by the Dickens Project
University of California, Santa Cruz
4 Week Seminar: July 3rd through 29th, 2016
Directed by Prof. Marty Gould



Taking an interdisciplinary, cultural-studies approach to literature, this NEH summer seminar considers two Dickens novels in relation to historical events and contemporary concerns, literary influences and modern adaptations, Victorian social theory and current critical trends. We will explore *Hard Times* and *A Tale of Two Cities* as we consider how teacher can use Dickens to promote cultural literacy while developing the ethical and political perspectives students need to fully engage with contemporary social issues.

Historical & Interdisciplinary Approaches

- This trans-historical seminar (1) reconnects Dickens's novels to their historical and cultural sources, (2) considers Dickens's novels in their original serialized formats, and (3) looks at the novels through 19th and 20th-century adaptations (plays, fictions, and films).
- This interdisciplinary seminar includes critical readings and ideas drawn from history, art history, literary criticism, theatre studies, adaptation theory, and cultural studies.

Fresh Ideas for Reading & Teaching Dickens

- Read Dickens in conversation with his contemporaries, including Elizabeth Gaskell, Thomas Carlyle, and Elizabeth Barrett Browning.
- Investigate Dickens's engagement with Victorian popular culture, 19th-century history, and his relevance to modern social and political events.
- Discover new methods for teaching Dickens via historical and cultural contexts, adaptations, art objects, and archival materials including Victorian periodicals.

Guest Speakers & Special Workshops

- Guest speakers include Prof. Sharon Weltman (who will talk to us about theatre and adaptation) and Prof. Kate Flint (who will speak to us about Victorian visual arts).
- Workshops on digital resources & improving pedagogies.



A Tale of Two Cities

An historical novel about the French Revolution written in response to the Indian Mutiny and addressing issues terrorism, social revolution, law, self-sacrifice, and the common good.



Hard Times

A text that explores utilitarianism, industrialization, labor, education, family & community, political reform, and collective social action.

For information and application materials see <http://www.DickensNEH2016.com>

Application deadline: 1 March 2016

For more information about the seminar, contact the director at DickensNEH@gmail.com

Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this program do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.