

**Ends and Beginnings (EN278)**  
**Essay Questions**

**Due on 12 December 2017 (Tuesday, Week 11, Term 1)**

(3,000 words)

General Instructions:

You should use no more than TWO texts in your response, but one text will often be sufficient. You may use the text you discussed in your presentation and write-up, provided that there is no overlap in context, but you may find it easier to work on different material.

You are encouraged to do some degree of independent research for this assignment, which may include primary materials from the period (historical materials, contemporary criticism from journals or newspapers, other relevant literature, etc.) and/or criticism and theory. Via the library portal, you can access useful databases such as Empire Online, Gale News Vault, Nineteenth-Century British Library Newspapers, the Times Digital Archives, Project Muse, the MLA International Bibliography, and Literature Online. *Remember that recent articles are normally embargoed for several years and will not appear in JSTOR.*

***PLEASE CONSULT THE ESSAY TIPS DOCUMENT ON THE WEBSITE FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT HOW TO WRITE AND FORMAT YOUR ESSAY APPROPRIATELY.***

Answer **ONE** of the following questions. You are highly encouraged to formulate your own question in consultation with Dr Forman.

1. Write an essay on the relationship between architecture and fiction in any of the works studied.
2. Consider the role played by horses and carriages in any of the works from Term 1.
3. “It is to increased wealth and to increased civilisation that we owe the wide gulf which to-day separates well-to-do citizens from the masses. It is the increased wealth of this mighty city which has driven the poor back inch by inch, until we find them today herding together, packed like herrings in a barrel, neglected and despised, and left to endure wrongs and hardships which, if they were related to a far-off savage tribe, would cause Exeter Hall to shudder till its bricks fell down.” (George Sims, *How the Poor Live*, 1883)

Using this comment as a springboard, explore the relationship between wealth, poverty, and responsibility in any of the texts studied during Term 1.

4. Consider the depiction of infanticide in any of the works studied.
5. How do the authors of any of the texts depict gender and/or class and/or religious identity as essentially performative (e.g. Crane’s depiction of working-class masculinity, Grossmith’s middle-class identity, etc.)?

6. How does what William Booth calls “the African parallel” unfold in one or two of the texts studied this term?
7. Explore the significance of theatricals or other forms of spectacle (such as the penny gaffe) in one or two of the texts from Term 1. You may want to consider how and why the texts contain representations of other genres.
8. Explore the depiction of “Jewishness” OR “blackness” OR “Chineseness” in any of the texts studied.
9. Consider the depiction of “streetwalking”—in relation to prostitution, crime, middle-class slumwork (e.g. the “slum lassies”), etc.—in any of the works studied.
10. Consider the function of imperial paranoia about invasion and/or sexual predation in any of the texts studied in Term 1.

**Your essay must have a strong central argument/thesis statement, which should appear towards the start. We will be expecting you to do close reading during the essay, commenting on issues such as narrative voice, style, etc. and the way in which these elements contribute to the title you have chosen.**

The essay should use parenthetical citations for quotations and have a bibliography, which preferably conforms to the MLA style. Information on the MLA style can be found at [www.mla.org](http://www.mla.org), or you can consult the MLA Handbook in the library. The Online Writing Lab at Purdue, <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/545/01/>, offers good guidance on how to formulate a thesis statement. I also recommend *The Craft of Research*, edited by Wayne Booth et al.