This course will feature close readings of major poems by Tennyson, Robert Browning, Christina Rossetti, Matthew Arnold, Dante Gabriel Rossetti, Elizabeth Barrett Browning, Edward FitzGerald, William Morris, Lewis Carroll, Edward Lear, and Thomas Hardy. We will also focus on the various visual and design elements that were important to these poets and the culture at large, including Pre-Raphaelite painting, neo-gothic architecture, and comic sketches and caricatures. In examining the range of the Victorians' formal experiments in lyric and narrative poetry, we will move from the aggressiveness of Browning to the sumptuousness of Swinburne, Morris, and Dante Gabriel Rossetti. In all of this, we will be examining contrasting visions of the roles of the poet and poetry in a new era of mass culture.

**Requirements:**
Undergraduates: Two 4-6 pp. papers; midterm and final exams
Graduate Students: Two 8-10 pp. papers; midterm in-class writing; and final exam

**Texts (probable):**
Out-of-print text to be purchased used.