



**EN 490 Independent Study: John Ruskin (3)
Winter 2011**

Dr. Tim Heath

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Class Times: TBD

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Class Location: Room TBd

**Office Hours: T/Th 9:45 to 11:00 or by
appointment**

Course Description

John Ruskin (1819-1900) was undeniably the most influential art theorist and critic of his age. Ruskin also exerted a powerful though much contested voice as a social critic. However, even when his ideas were attacked, his opponents conceded that Ruskin's style of expression was an impressively winsome one, so among other his distinctions Ruskin's prose possesses an abiding stylistic and imaginative excellence. Ruskin, thus, influenced a number of the Victorian period's key artistic figures, in particular the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood. Of this group William Holman Hunt was deeply indebted to Ruskin's ideas on art and religion, so, again, Ruskin's influence significantly changed one of the most productive and arresting arts movements of his time. This course, then, aims to examine Ruskin's major works to study them in their own right and also to understand their influence on Victorian and subsequent culture.

Required Texts and Readings (required texts marked *)

Ruskin, John. "The Baron's Gate." (from *Flors Clavigera*, in *UtL*)

"Charitas." (from *Flors Clavigera*, in *UtL*)

The King of the Golden River (in *UtL*)

"Of Kings' Treasuries" (from *Sesame and Lilies*, in *UtL*)

"The Nature of Gothic." (from *The Stones of Venice*, in *UtL*)

**Praeterita*.

"The Grotesque" from *The Stones of Venice*

"Of the Mystery of Life." (from *Sesame and Lilies*)

"Of Queens' Gardens." (from *Sesame and Lilies*, in *UtL*)

"Traffic.:" *The Crown of Wild Olive* (in *UtL*)

**Unto this Last and Other Writings*. Penguin (0-14-043211-6)

"Work." *The Crown of Wild Olive*

"The Works of Iron, in Nature, Art, and Policy." (from *The Two Paths*, in *UtL*)

Note: the instructor will supplement the text with class handouts—print and digital—as needed. Note also that students will read a number of critical essays on Ruskin.

Course Objectives

This course is primarily devoted to a critical assessment of Ruskin's prose with special emphasis on *Praeterita* and *Unto this Last*.

1. Grading:

Essay 1	20%
Essay 2	25%
Reading responses	30% (six at 5% each)
Critiques	15% (three at 5% each)
Participation	<u>10%</u>
	100

Course Schedule

Wednesday
January
19
26
February
2
9
16
23
March
2
9
16
23
30
April
6
13