

**HISTORY 368**  
**Europe in the Nineteenth Century**  
**Spring 2016**

**Prof. C.R. Friedrichs**

**REVIEW ESSAY ASSIGNMENT**

In this assignment, you are asked to discuss and compare two works of fiction written in the early nineteenth century, each of which describes the life of a young woman. You are asked to consider to what extent and in what ways these two novels can offer insights into the situation of women in two European countries in the early nineteenth century. In doing so, you should compare and contrast the way in which these two fictional works address this theme.

The novels are:

Anne Brontë, *Agnes Grey*

Honoré Balzac, *Eugénie Grandet*

You may read any editions of these works, as long as the versions you read are complete, unabridged, and paginated. If you read French fluently, you may read *Eugénie Grandet* in the original French.

In discussing these works, you should *cite specific passages* from each work which illustrate or support your findings or your arguments. The specific examples or passages you summarize or quote should be correctly referenced, citing the specific page numbers of the edition you used.

You are *not* required or expected to read the introductions to these novels written by modern editors or any other modern critical treatments of the novels or biographical writings about the two authors. You may read such material if you wish. But if you do so, any information or insights you obtain from such material *must be fully and correctly cited in footnotes*.

Your paper should be approximately **1,000 words**, not counting bibliographical entries or footnote references. The paper is due in class on **Monday, February 22**.

Except in cases of demonstrable medical or personal emergencies, **late papers** will be penalized by 5% for papers submitted up to one day late and by an additional 1% for each day after that. Late papers may be submitted by e-mail to document the date of completion, but a hard copy must be brought to the next class.

See the reverse for instructions about **correct citation style for this paper**. (For more information about references, see the Footnote Guide section of the course website.)

## **CITATION STYLE FOR THIS PAPER**

In writing this paper, you should use the citation style most often used for book reviews or review essays. In this style, you begin by listing the specific editions of the work(s) you have read in correct bibliographic form at the beginning of the paper. Page references are placed in parentheses within the text of your paper.

### **Examples of bibliographic references:**

George Eliot, *Silas Marner* (New York: Doubleday, 1948).

Honoré Balzac, *Cousin Bette*, translated by Mary Roe with introduction by John Doe (London: Smith and Jones Publishers, 1995).

### **Examples of in-text page references:**

In *Silas Marner*, the author explains why Eppie was “reared without punishment.” (167)

Balzac’s description of Bette says that she had “the vigorous energy of all mountain-bred people.” (39) It is clear that Bette’s status in her cousin’s household was midway between that of a relation and a servant. (142)

Again, you are *not* expected or required to use information or insights from any source other than the texts of these novels. But if you *do* choose to use any such information or insights, this material must be appropriately referenced. You should use footnotes to reference any such sources.

### **Examples of how to reference statements that require footnotes:**

.....In his introduction to *Cousin Bette*, John Doe argues that Bette is depicted as “vindictive.”<sup>1</sup> At a different point in his introduction, Doe refers to her as “profoundly selfish.”<sup>2</sup> In contrast, Sally Moe argues that Bette was justifiably using the only means available to her.<sup>3</sup> In fact, both of these viewpoints miss the main point of Balzac’s depiction of Bette.....

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<sup>1</sup> John Doe, “Introduction,” Honoré Balzac, *Cousin Bette*, translated by Mary Roe with introduction by John Doe (London: Smith and Jones Publishers, 1995), p 17.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid., p. 22.

<sup>3</sup> Sally Moe, “Weapons of the Weak in the Novels of Honoré Bazlac,” *The Journal of French Literary Studies*, 22 (2013), 22-45, citation p. 25.