

## Victorian Britain

**Purpose:** In this seminar we will become acquainted with the major features and leaders of the Victorian period in Great Britain (1837-1901).

<b>Course #</b>	19SVB
<b>Format:</b>	Seminar
<b>Moderator:</b>	James Harvey
<b>Date and Time:</b>	Tuesday, 9:30-11:30 10 weeks, starting February 26
<b>Location:</b>	Smith College, Dewey Hall Common

**Description:** The Victorian period saw the British Empire grow to become the largest in human history, featuring the extraordinary 63-year reign of Queen Victoria. It was a period of considerable ferment and reform. During this period Great Britain had considerable influence on the rest of the world, including the use of English as the international means of communication.

While time constraints make a comprehensive study of the period impossible, this seminar will look at some of the leaders of that age and examine some of the features of its society. We will try to understand how change developed, why reforms were important, and how they affected the lives of ordinary people. Particular attention will be paid to some of its gifted leaders in politics, the arts, science and industry.

**Role of participants:** Prepare and deliver a presentation of 30-40 minutes, participate in class discussion and read the background material.

**Resources:** Internet articles on various topics will be supplied by the moderator and it is suggested that participants read one of the following:

*The Victorians*, A. N. Wilson; *The Victorian City, Everyday life in Dickens' London*, Judith Flanders

**About the Moderator:** Jim has been leading seminars for 15 years on a variety of topics, but especially history.

**Maximum number of participants:** 17

**Auditors accepted:** yes, up to 2