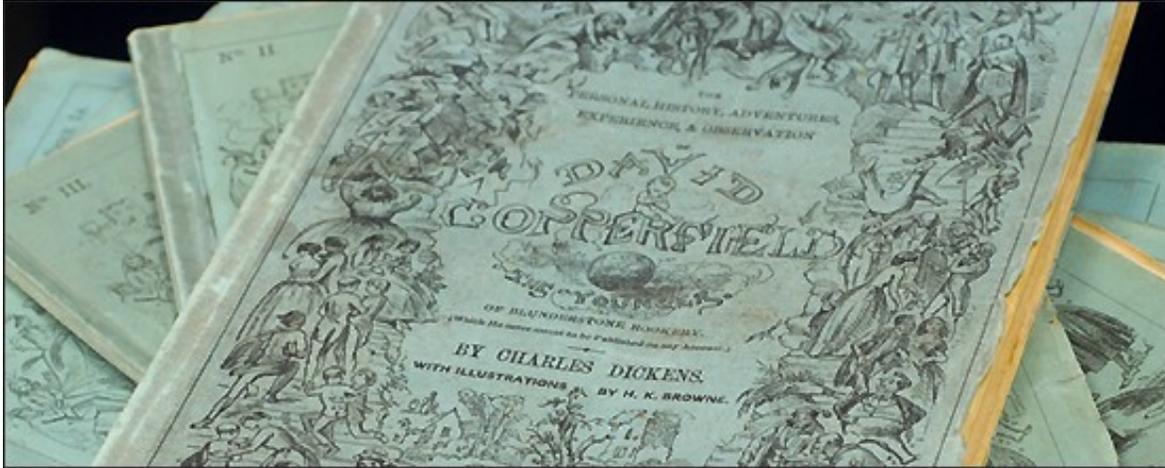


Special Topics: Dickens in the Digital Age
(Engl 181) T/R 12-1:15pm
Spring 2017

Have you ever held a 200-year old book in your hands? How about a newspaper? Or even a blue-back serial? In the Spring, we're going to work our way through Charles Dickens' novels and then create a digital version of some of his original serials *available in our very own SJSU Special Collections*.



These extremely rare and very valuable blue-back serials contain just a few chapters of a novel in monthly installments. Dickens also inserted advertisements to accompany the plot (items in the ads related to the novel itself!) in addition to adding needlepoint patterns -- all of which are STILL INTACT in our originals here at SJSU! You'll be handling them, smelling the pages, studying the typography, and generally living with these 150+ year old rare artifacts.

Technological Expertise: know how to email

The final project will be part of a larger project -- in essence, you're working towards a scholarly publication credit, something you can show off to your parents and potential employers.

Formal Description:

Charles Dickens (1812-1870) became one of the most prolific novelists of the nineteenth-century by marketing his writing through new forms of print. His serialized fiction appealed to the popular masses from England to America, a popularity that was strengthened by Dickens' willingness to perform to live audiences. Along with his serials, magazine essays, editorial duties, political essays, Dickens also appealed for international copyright – surely inspired by the piracy of his novels but also in recognition that authorship was a commercial endeavor and a form of intellectual property.

In this course, we will explore Charles Dickens' writings in the context of nineteenth-century print culture, a rising industrialized nation, and that nation's imperialist ethos. In addition to reading physical facsimiles of a few of Dickens' serialized novels, participants will research Dickens' enduring impact on the nineteenth-century and beyond; participants will also engage in lively discussions with Dickens experts from the UC Santa Cruz Dickens Universe and our own local Dickens scholars. Our concluding project will involve creating a digital scholarly edition of the original *Hard Times* serials currently held in the SJSU Special Collections.