



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA  
COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES

## HUMANITIES SEMINARS

### Two Novels, Two Cities, Two Centuries: Dickens and McCann

Professor Laura Berry

#### Preliminary Syllabus

- Class 1 - June 3
  - Reading: first third of Bleak House
  - Lecture: nineteenth-century London as a character, characterization in the novel, urban life and interdependency, law and language
- Class 2 – June 10
  - Reading: second third of Bleak House
  - Lecture: narration and narrative strategy, institutions and social suffering, metaphor and circulation
- Class 3 – June 17
  - Reading: finish Bleak House, begin Let the Great World Spin
  - Lecture: “comedy” and the reproduction of the couple, ending and beginning, Man on Wire
- Class 4 – June 24
  - Reading: finish Let the Great World Spin
  - Lecture: New York City as character, “tragedy” and the destruction of the social order, social interdependency
- Class 5 – July 1
  - Lecture: Bleak House and Let the Great World Spin
  - Shared themes and divergent resolutions

#### Professor’s Biography

LAURA C. BERRY is Associate Professor of English at the University of Arizona. She is the author of *The Child, the State and the Victorian Novel*, and numerous articles on Dickens, the Brontes, George Eliot, and Victorian literature and culture. She received her doctorate from UC Berkeley in 1992.