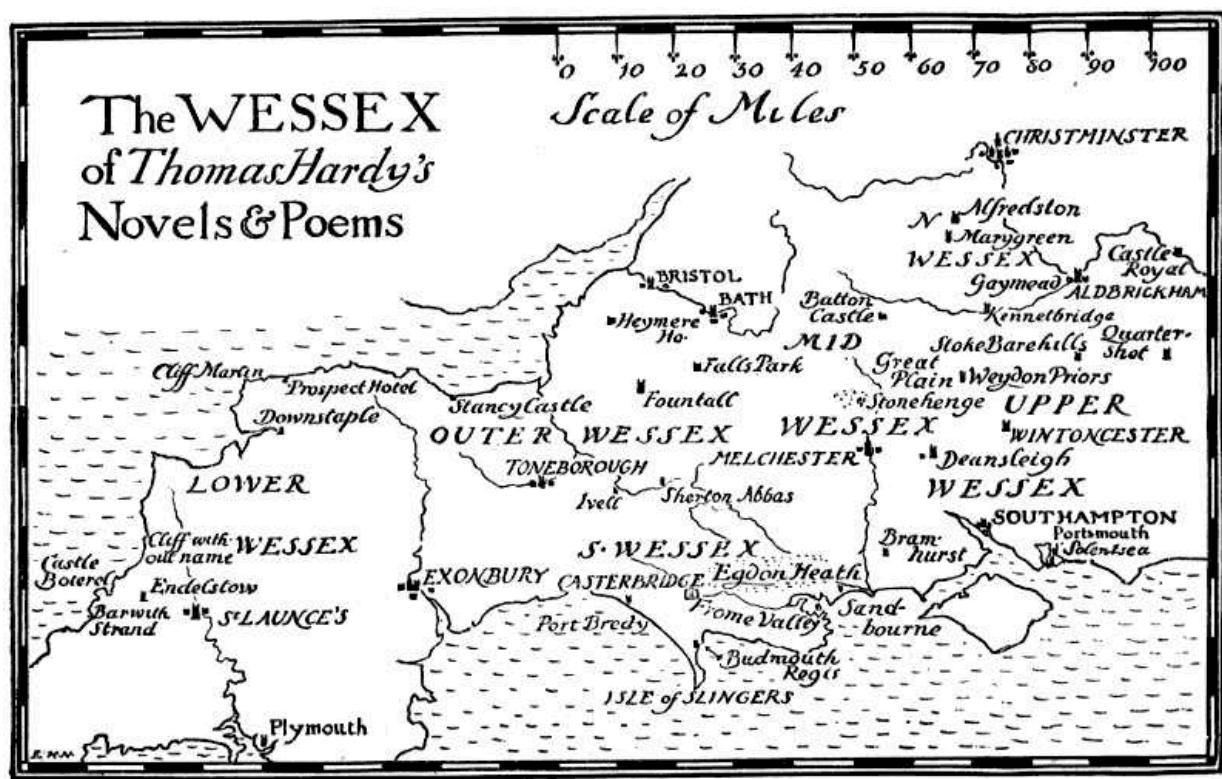


Greek Influence

Assignment 18

- The picture, right, on this assignment page is of a map of Dorset, England. The town of Dorchester (“Casterbridge” of Thomas Hardy) lies within Dorset. Notice that it is in the south of England. It lies west of Hampshire, which is the county in which Jane Austen was born. It is this area that Hardy created his fictional “Wessex” (below). We will be talking more about the setting of Thomas Hardy’s *Mayor of Casterbridge* next week. There are more pictures of Dorchester (Casterbridge) below. I will be posting a series of them, identifying some places that Hardy mentions in his books.



- Read *Mayor of Casterbridge*, chapters 24-35. Again, be ready for a quiz on the basic details of the plot and characters. Also be ready for a quiz on the notes I have given thus far.

Long-Range Assignments

- Your narrative-descriptive essay is due the third week of February.
- Your tragic plot for the *Dionysia* competition will be due on **the second week in February**.
 - THESPIS
Lucas, Gabe, Steve
 - AESCHYLUS / EURIPIDES
Felicity, Grace, Elise, Francesca
 - SOPHOCLES
Bridget, Theresa, Miriam
- We will have our Greek Odyssey project on **the first Friday in February**, 6:30–8:30 p.m. The schedule will be the following. We will eat our dinner (gluten-free included), present our projects, eat dessert, and then play a literary game (time permitting). Please let me know as soon as possible if you cannot attend.



My wife is standing in front of the Dorchester train station. I was immediately astonished by what I saw. Part of the window dressing was an unfamiliar beer brand with a very familiar author's name—Thomas Hardy beer! Thomas Hardy is celebrated everywhere in town. It was hard for me to believe that a rather high brow author had become a tourist attraction and a marketing tool. I wrote an article about my experience in Dorchester, which I will share with you in a week or two.



What's so special about this picture? It is of the house that Tess of Hardy's novel *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* slept in. The outside of the farm was absolutely idyllic—I will show a picture of that later—, but as you can see I was disappointed with the interior! The bed was absolutely impossible to get a good night's rest in: I like to sleep Spartan style, and because the bed was so soft and springy, I hardly slept a wink.



It did not take much to make my photo look like a picture post card—Thomas Hardy’s cottage had a quaint, story-book charm that I had never seen before.

Unlike American landscapes, there were hardly any suburbs when we visited. Surrounding the town of Dorchester, there were farms, wooded areas, and fields. Here is a picture of me with a satchel, communing with the sheep. They were undoubtedly confused by my American accent.

