

MODULE SPECIFICATION

Code: UPGPPL-30-2 **Title:** Victorian Frictions **Version:** 3
Level: 2 **UWE credit rating:** 30 **ECTS credit rating:** 15

Module type: Standard

Owning Faculty: Creative Arts, Humanities and Education **Field:** English

Faculty Committee approval: CAC **Date:**

Approved for Delivery by:

Valid from: September 2010 **Discontinued from:**

Contributes towards: Awards up to BA / BSc (Hons)

Pre-requisites: UGPFV-60-1 - Writing about reading / reading about writing
or
UPGPDC-60-1 – Approaches to Literature and Criticism
or
UPGPPF-30-1 Beyond the Horizon: Spaces and Places in Literature
or
UPGPPG-30-1 Once Upon a Time: Stories, Children and Literature

Co-requisites: None

Entry requirements:

Excluded combinations: UGPPB-30-2; British Fiction, 1830-1900;
UPGPTC-30-2 Victorian Poetry

Learning outcomes:

On completing this module, students should be able to demonstrate:

1. an ability to undertake close critical analysis of selected British texts of the Victorian period, paying close attention to such matters as voice, perspective and imagery (assessed through Components A and B);
2. an appreciation of the depth and diversity of literary genres, acquired through a knowledge of some major nineteenth-century literature (assessed through Components A and B);
3. a perception of some of the contextual debates (social, cultural, political, scientific, historical) that inform writing of this period (assessed through Component B);
4. an understanding of literary texts in relation to their relevant contexts, for example questions of genre, literary production and readership (assessed through Components A and B);
5. the ability to identify, summarise and critically engage with secondary literature that is relevant to the primary texts they study (assessed through Component B of assessment, especially Element 1).

Syllabus outline:

A number of key Victorian literary texts will be studied. Texts will vary to reflect the expertise of the module team. Fiction from different genres within the period will be considered, for example the Newgate novel, the Condition-of-England novel, the *Bildungsroman*, the Realist novel, and Sensation fiction. Poetic genres studied will include the dramatic monologue, the sonnet and the elegy. The texts will be studied in relation to contextual issues such as industrialisation, crime, the rise of psychology, marriage, the woman question, faith and evolutionary ideas. Issues of publication, readership and reception will be explored. The module will also offer the opportunity to investigate the relationship between literature and other discursive forms.

Teaching and learning methods:

The module will be delivered through a combination of lectures and seminars. Lectures will provide background information, encouraging students to engage more closely with the issues examined in seminars in more depth. They may be supplemented by the occasional showing of informative videos, as well as workshops. Seminars will give students the opportunity to express and exchange their responses in detailed discussions of selected texts. Teaching methods in seminars will typically include whole group discussions, small group exercises, and student presentations. Students will be encouraged to take advantage of their tutor's consultation hour to gain exam, essay and general advice during tutorial time.

Reading Strategy

Students will be expected to buy the primary texts, which are essential reading. Full text versions are, however, available for free by accessing Project Gutenberg (<http://www.gutenberg.org/catalog/>) and Literature Online via the library's electronic resources. A small number of other essential texts may be provided as a printed study pack or as an appendix to the module handbook. Other texts and links to useful web sites will be available in digitised form via Blackboard. Students will be encouraged to read a variety of secondary texts, using the library catalogue, its bibliographic and full texts databases and internet resources. It is expected that assignment bibliographies will reflect the range of reading carried out.

Students will build on the research and information skills introduced at Level 1. This module offers an opportunity to further develop these skills, focusing on the identification and use of appropriate secondary material. At the start of the module, students will be given guidance on these skills, and Element 1 of Component B will assess their ability to find a relevant journal article, to summarise and to assess them.

Indicative Reading List:

The following list is offered to provide validation panels/accrediting bodies with an indication of the type and level of information students may be expected to consult. As such, its currency may wane during the life span of the module specification. However, as indicated above, CURRENT advice on readings will be available via other more frequently updated mechanisms.

- Beer, Gillian. *Darwin's Plots: Evolutionary Narrative in Darwin, George Eliot and Nineteenth-century Fiction*. 1983. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2000.
- Bristow, Joseph, ed. *The Cambridge Companion to Victorian Poetry*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2002.
- Cronin, Richard et al., ed. *A Companion to Victorian Poetry*. Oxford: Blackwell, 2002.
- Miller, J. Hillis. *The Disappearance of God: Five Nineteenth-Century Writers*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard UP, 1963.
- O'Gorman, Francis, ed. *The Victorian Novel*. Oxford: Blackwell, 2002.
- Regan, Stephen, ed. *The Nineteenth-century Novel: A Critical Reader*. London: Routledge, 2001.
- Richards, Bernard. *English Poetry of the Victorian Period 1830-1890*. London: Longman, 1988.
- Sutherland, John. *Victorian Fiction: Writers, Publishers, Readers*. Basingstoke and London: Macmillan, 1995.
- Tucker, Herbert F., ed. *A Companion to Victorian Literature and Culture*. Oxford: Blackwell, 1999.

Assessment

Weighting between components A and B (standard modules only) A: 40% B: 60%

ATTEMPT 1

First Assessment Opportunity (Sit)

Component A

Description of each element	Element weighting
1 Seen Examination (2 hours) FINAL	40%

Component B

Description of each element	Element weighting
1 Synopsis and evaluation of an academic journal article (oral presentation 200 words handout, 800 word written submission)	15%
2 Essay (3,000 words)	40%
3 Essay Plan	5%

Second Assessment Opportunity (Resit) (further attendance at taught classes is not required)

Component A

Description of each element

Element weighting

1 Seen Examination (2 hours) Final

40%

Component B

Description of each element

Element weighting

1. Synopsis and evaluation of an academic journal article
(200 words handout, 800 word written submission)

15%

2. Essay (3,500 words)

45%

EXCEPTIONAL SECOND ATTEMPT (Retake): Attendance at taught classes is required.

Specification confirmed byDate
(Associate Dean/Programme Director)