Module Specification

Victorian Frictions: Literature and Society, 1837-1901

Version: 2026-27, v2.0, Approved

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Victorian Frictions: Literature and Society, 1837-1901

Module code: UPGPPL-30-2

Level: Level 5

For implementation from: 2026-27

UWE credit rating: 30

ECTS credit rating: 15

College: College of Arts, Technology and Environment

School: CATE School of Arts

Partner institutions: None

Field: English

Module type: Module

Pre-requisites: Liberal Arts in Society: Past, Present and Future 2026-27

Excluded combinations: None

Co-requisites: None

Continuing professional development: No

Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements: None

Part 2: Description

Overview: This module will analyse some major Victorian texts that articulate central concerns and conflicts of the period.

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: Students will critically examine some significant examples of novels and poetry such as Condition-of-England fiction, the sensation novel, detective fiction, the dramatic monologue, and the sonnet. They will consider the

ways in which these texts emerge out of, and critique, Victorian culture and society. Students will critically evaluate ideas explored in the literature studied, engage with relevant literary criticism, and reflect upon their performance.

Outline syllabus: Themes studied may include class and inequality, gender and transgression, faith and doubt, race and empire, and evolution and degeneration. Close attention will be paid to literary form and relevant societal contexts, for example industrialization, legal reform, the woman question, and challenges to faith such as evolutionary theories. Issues of publication, readership, and reception will also be explored.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: Teaching and learning will be delivered through a combination of lecture, workshop, seminar, and tutorial formats as appropriate. Student learning will be supported by the university's VLE, where reading lists, weekly preparation, teaching slides, and lecture recordings are hosted. Students can also access assessment briefs from the start of teaching and will be offered bespoke assessment advice during scheduled teaching time. In addition, students will be encouraged to discuss their teaching and learning with the module teaching team in-person or online.

Module Learning outcomes: On successful completion of this module students will achieve the following learning outcomes.

MO1 Deepen understanding of Victorian literary forms.

MO2 Understand and apply a range of contexts to Victorian literature.

MO3 Confidently participate in critical discussions, articulating perspectives, responding to diverse viewpoints, and refining arguments.

MO4 Engage in reflective practice, reviewing personal strengths and areas for growth, and proactively seeking feedback to improve their work.

Hours to be allocated: 300

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 228 hours

Face-to-face learning = 72 hours

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at readinglists.uwe.ac.uk via the following link https://uwe.rl.talis.com/index.html

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: Assessment will be a portfolio. This is designed to test various learning outcomes and areas of the module curriculum.

The portfolio will comprise two elements that may include a choice of close reading, essay, creative writing with critical commentary, and critical introduction. It will also include a short critical reflection evaluating their preparation and performance. The varied assessment will allow students choice in showcasing their knowledge and understanding across different forms.

Formative assessment: in advance of the final deadline, students will be offered assessment consultations to discuss their plans and the opportunity to receive feedback on one page of their work.

The resit will match the first sit.

Assessment tasks:

Portfolio (First Sit)
Description: Portfolio comprising 2 elements plus a short critical reflection 4000 words
Weighting: 100 %
Final assessment: Yes
Group work: No
Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

Portfolio (Resit)

Description: Portfolio comprising 2 elements plus a short critical reflection 4000 words
Weighting: 100 %
Final assessment: Yes
Group work: No
Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

English Literature [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2025-26