

University of Arkansas - Fort Smith
5210 Grand Avenue
P. O. Box 3649
Fort Smith, AR 72913-3649
479-788-7000

General Syllabus

ENGL 4243 Victorian Literature

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Laboratory or other types of Hours:

Prerequisite(s): ENGL 2113 Introduction to Literary and Cultural Studies

Prerequisite(s) or corequisite(s): RHET 3203 Textual Research Methods

Effective Catalog: 2023-2024

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

A reading intensive and focused study of the literature and print culture of nineteenth-century British literature. Students will engage in processes of critical analysis as they study the literature of the Victorian Era (1837-1901) in British Literature.

B. Additional Information -- None

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

Upon successful completion of this course, the students will be able to:

1. Analyze major works, genres, and literary movements of the long-nineteenth century.
2. Review key writers, theorists, and scholars of nineteenth-century British literature and culture.
3. Interpret literary features, structure, style, and key issues in analyzing the literature of the period.
4. Explore the basics of archival research, with a focus on digital methodologies and practices.
5. Demonstrate facility with a critical approach to Victorian literature through class discussion, written assignments, and/or presentations. The critical approach should be drawn from nineteenth-century scholarship and cultural studies, such as Gender and Sexuality studies; Colonialism, Empire, and Post-Colonialism; Class Studies; Periodical Studies; Race Theory and Undisciplining Victorian

Studies, Strategic Formalism; Neo-Victorian Studies; and/or pedagogical methods.

6. Create focused critical, scholarly arguments which explicate, analyze, and evaluate the works studied in innovative and scholarly ways. Critical essays should be 12-15 pages, supported by appropriate archival and secondary scholarship.

B. University Learning Outcomes (ULO)

Analytical Skills

Critical Thinking Skills: Students will identify problems/issues and develop solutions/analysis. Students will analyze a variety of texts for their rhetorical and/or literary features, as well as analyze the rhetorical situation to which the texts they produce respond.

Communication Skills (written and oral)

Students will communicate proficiently. Students will practice communication skills through discussions, presentations, and a variety of required written assignments.

Ethical Decision Making

Students will model ethical decision-making processes. Students will practice critical response to the writing of others, responsible use of research materials and intellectual property, and the ethical use of persuasion.

Global & Cultural Perspectives

Students will reflect upon cultural differences and their implications for interacting with people from cultures other than their own. Students will analyze the rhetorical situation, produce texts for a variety of audiences, and avoid the use of biased language.

III. Major Course Topics

- A. Industrialism and working-class issues
- B. Gender issues and sexuality
- C. Post-Colonialism/Imperialism
- D. Aestheticism and Decadence
- E. Print culture, periodicals, and book history
- F. Sensation fiction and other popular literary genres