

Liverpool John Moores University

Title: The Victorians
Status: Definitive
Code: **5015HIST** (119683)
Version Start Date: 01-08-2013

Owning School/Faculty: Humanities and Social Science
Teaching School/Faculty: Humanities and Social Science

Team	Leader
Mike Benbough-Jackson	Y

Academic Level: FHEQ5
Credit Value: 24.00
Total Delivered Hours: 54.00
Total Learning Hours: 240
Private Study: 186

Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Standard Year Long

Component	Contact Hours
Lecture	27.000
Workshop	27.000

Grading Basis: 40 %

Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Report	Report		20.0	
Portfolio	Portfolio		40.0	
Portfolio	Portfolio		40.0	

Aims

To investigate the cultural landscape of Victorian Britain.

To critically evaluate contemporary and historiographical debates about the Victorians.

To assess and synthesize primary source material relating to cultural identities and practices in Victorian Britain.

Learning Outcomes

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Demonstrate an in-depth knowledge of the cultural landscape of Victorian Britain.
- 2 Critically analyse the cultural history of Victorian Britain using theories and methods derived from history and related disciplines.
- 3 Communicate opinions about Victorian Britain, based on primary sources, in a coherent manner.

Learning Outcomes of Assessments

The assessment item list is assessed via the learning outcomes listed:

Report	3
Portfolio	2
Portfolio	1

Outline Syllabus

The Victorians: who, what and where?

Victorian Values

Holidays: getting away and display.

Death and the supernatural: Burying and contacting the dead.

The countryside: ideal and reality.

Sports: The growth, demise and opposition to various sporting activities.

Sex: A Victorian obsession?

Political culture: Liberal or Tory?

Alcohol: Problems and solutions.

Music Hall: The cinema of the age.

Jubilees: Queen Victoria's parties?

Clothing and fashion: Beards and corsets.

Learning Activities

The course will be based on interactive lectures and document-based workshops. Lectures will incorporate question and answer sessions in which the tutor asks questions to the students and vice versa. Document-based workshops will take place in class and online via Blackboard. Both portfolios will include group wikis along with questions that the students work on as individuals.

Students will be asked to find, deconstruct and contextualise sources from online archives and collections. This activity will encourage them to consult sources in preparation for their Independent Studies and Dissertations at L6.

References

Course Material	Book
Author	Botd, Kelly and Rohan McWilliam (eds)
Publishing Year	2007
Title	The Victorian Studies Reader
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	London: Routledge
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Williams, Chris (ed.)
Publishing Year	2006
Title	A companion to nineteenth-century Britain
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Oxford: Blackwell
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Steinbach, Susie L.
Publishing Year	2012
Title	Understanding the Victorians
Subtitle	politics, culture and society in nineteenth-century Britain
Edition	
Publisher	London: Routledge
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Roberts, Adam C.
Publishing Year	2003
Title	Victorian culture and society
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	London: Arnold
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
Author	Hewitt, Martin
Publishing Year	2012
Title	The Victorian World
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	London: Routledge
ISBN	

Course Material	Book
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Author	Dentith, Simon
Publishing Year	1998
Title	Society and cultural forms in the nineteenth century
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Basingstoke: Macmillan
ISBN	

Notes

This module considers the Victorians and opinions about the Victorians. But first of all, there needs to be an attempt to clarify some of the meanings attributed to the term 'Victorian'. This is no easy task. It is difficult to generalise about the Victorians because the era contained so many different people, trends and ideas. Moreover, the Victorians have been defined and re-defined by their descendants.

The module will consist of a series of themes that shed light on the central questions: 'Who were the Victorians?'; 'What did they do?'; and, 'How did they see their world?'. There will also be some consideration of the distinctions between early, mid and late Victorian periods. In fact, the important question of periodization in general will be addressed.

Various factors, such as increased educational provision, industrialisation, urbanisation and an expanding media, shaped the experiences of the Victorians. But rather than just concentrating on the forces that moulded Victorian Britain, the module examines the meanings that groups and individuals attached to features of their socio-economic environment. Particular attention will be paid to the formation, evaluation and transformation of group and individual identities, including those founded on nation, region, locality, religion, gender and class.

An in depth study of some distinctive features of the Victorian age, enables the historian to engage with many debates surrounding the subject. It also presents an opportunity to relate concepts and theories to actual events, items and opinions that are preserved in numerous electronic archives.