

## Liverpool John Moores University

Title: The Literature of the 1890s  
Status: Definitive  
Code: **6035ENGLIS** (117978)  
Version Start Date: 01-08-2019

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

Team	Leader
Sondeep Kandola	Y

**Academic Level:** FHEQ6  
**Credit Value:** 24  
**Total Delivered Hours:** 46  
**Total Learning Hours:** 240  
**Private Study:** 194

### Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Standard Year Long

Component	Contact Hours
Lecture	11
Online	12
Seminar	22
Tutorial	1

**Grading Basis:** 40 %

### Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Presentation	AS1	1,500-word equivalent Presentation	30	
Essay	AS2	3,000-word Essay	70	

### Aims

*To critically examine the literature of the Victorian fin de siècle  
To examine the culturally transitional and innovative characteristics of the decade  
To explore the interplay between literary form, scientific discourse and historical events in the period*

## Learning Outcomes

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Critically review a body of knowledge relating to a specific period and a specific body of texts;
- 2 Exercise significant judgement in the selection and critical treatment of relevant primary and secondary sources;
- 3 Accept complete accountability for planning and delivering a group presentation relating to a specific event (the Wilde trials).

## Learning Outcomes of Assessments

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

1500 word equiv.	3	
Presentation		
3,000-word Essay	1	2

## Outline Syllabus

1. *Introduction*
2. *Detective Fiction: Arthur Conan Doyle, The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes (1892)*
3. *From Decadence to Counter-decadence: Selected Poetry of the 1890s*
4. *Decadence and Degeneration: Arthur Machen, The Great God Pan (1894)*
5. *Female and Freelance: Ella Hepworth Dixon, The Story of a Modern Woman (1894)*
6. *The Other Victorians: Oscar Wilde, The Importance of Being Earnest (1895)*
7. *Workshop: Reporting the Wilde trials (1895)*
8. *Working-class Subjectivity: Thomas Hardy, Jude the Obscure (1897)*
9. *Sex and censorship: Thomas Hardy, Jude the Obscure (1897)*
10. *The New Imperialism: Joseph Conrad, Heart of Darkness (1899)*

## Learning Activities

Lectures; seminars; workshops;

## Notes

This module examines the literature of the Victorian fin de siècle, both as a transitional decade between Victorian and Modernist writing and as a highly productive period in terms of the development of new literary genres that it witnessed. Students will explore how the 1890s saw shifts in print culture and audiences and both the increased application of the obscenity laws and a growing commitment on the part of writers to engage directly with some of the most pressing and disturbing questions that shaped the final decade of the Victorian period. Thus,

this module will examine some of the most celebrated and notorious texts produced in the 1890s and investigate how these Victorian texts responded to contemporary anxieties about societal and artistic degeneration, the rise of the new 'science' of psychical research , the state of the working classes and figures such as the 'New Woman'. To develop student awareness of the interplay between literary form, scientific discourse and historical events in the period, a seminar will also be devoted to exploring contemporary reportage of the trials of Oscar Wilde, an event that would appear to crystallise this module's interest in fin-de-siècle print cultures, 'deviant' sexuality, censorship and celebrity. Further afield, the module will also examine how poets and novelists both celebrated and critiqued the more aggressive expansionism that shaped European attitudes to empire.