

Liverpool John Moores University

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Title: Neo-Victorianism: The Victorians in Contemporary Literature & Culture
Status: Definitive
Code: **6121ENGL** (122215)
Version Start Date: 01-08-2021

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

Team	Leader
Nadine Muller	Y

Academic Level: FHEQ6
Credit Value: 20
Total Delivered Hours: 35
Total Learning Hours: 200
Private Study: 165

Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Semester 2

Component	Contact Hours
Lecture	11
Seminar	22
Tutorial	2

Grading Basis: 40 %

Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Essay	AS1	1500 Word Literature Review	40	
Essay	AS2	3000 Word Research Essay	60	

Aims

1. Provide a detailed understanding of the role and significance that the Victorian period, its literature, and its culture play in contemporary literature, film, and television.

2. Advance students' understanding of postmodernism, historiography, and intertextuality.
3. Critically interrogate the popularity of neo-Victorianism in contemporary culture.
4. Explore the motivations behind contemporary Britain's continuing preoccupation with the nineteenth century.

Learning Outcomes

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Analyse and contextualise neo-Victorian fiction as a contemporary genre.
- 2 Have an acute awareness of contemporary culture's preoccupations with the Victorian period.
- 3 Have a firm grasp of theories of and relationships between historiography and historical fiction.
- 4 Identify and critically reflect upon the thematic preoccupations of neo-Victorian fiction.

Learning Outcomes of Assessments

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

Essay 1500 words	1	2	3	
Essay 3000 words	1	2	3	4

Outline Syllabus

- 1 – *The Victorians & Us: Module Introduction*
- 2 – *Theorising the Neo-Victorian: Postmodernism & Historiographic Metafiction*
- 3 – *Neo-Victorian Haunting: A Jealous Ghost*
- 4 – *Neo-Victorian Haunting: The Ghost Writer*
- 5 – *Social Class: Fingersmith*
- 4 – *Social Class: Fingersmith*
- 5 – *Empire & Race: The Journal of Dora Damage*
- 6 – *Empire & Race: The Journal of Dora Damage*
- 7 – *Independent Study Week*
- 8 – *The Crimson Petal & the White*
- 9 – *The Crimson Petal & the White*
- 10 – *Consuming the Victorians: Paratexts & Adaptations (The Crimson Petal)*
- 11 – *Consuming the Victorians: Paratexts & Adaptations (The Paradise)*
- 12 – *Summary, Revision, & Essay Preparation*

Learning Activities

Close reading exercises
Online research tasks
Group discussion
Class presentations

Notes

This module explores contemporary literature and film's continuing fascination with the Victorian period. The module addresses three distinct yet interlinked areas of enquiry: a) it analyses the recurring themes of gender and sexuality, social class, and empire and race in examples of contemporary neo-Victorian fiction; b) it explores current theories on the significance and meaning of neo-Victorianism in contemporary literature and culture, particularly through the notions of ghosts and haunting; c) it critically interrogates the politics and ethics of our persistent returns, rewritings, and reimaginings of the Victorians. Thus, the module builds on and expands students' existing knowledge of the Victorian period as well as on their existing understanding of postmodernism and of strands of literary and cultural theory such as postcolonial theory, gender and queer theory, and Marxism. Why do readers, writers, and viewers so compulsively return to the nineteenth century, and what does this preoccupation with the Victorian past tell us about the nineteenth and the twenty-first centuries?