

# Victorian Literature

Spring, 2023-2024

**INSTRUCTOR:** Na Li

**EMAIL:** 282380217@qq.com

**OFFICE HOURS:** Wednesday 13:00—17:00

## DESCRIPTION:

The course covers British literature and culture during Queen Victoria's long reign, 1837-1901. This was the brilliant age of Charles Dickens, the Brontës, Lewis Carroll, George Eliot, Robert Browning, Oscar Wilde, Arthur Conan Doyle, Rudyard Kipling, Alfred, Lord Tennyson - and many others. It was also the age of urbanization, steam power, class conflict, Darwin, religious crisis, imperial expansion - and much more. Fiction, nonfiction, drama and poetry are included for students to have a full experience of Victorian literature from different angles and in different forms.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES:

This module aims to introduce students to a wide range of Victorian literature. Students will be encouraged to understand the complicated and intricate historical, social and cultural background for the creation of great Victorian literary works, as well as to read texts of key writers and in key literary forms. Students will be made aware of literary concepts as realism and allegory and will be encouraged to think about various developments of literature in the period.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR THIS COURSE:

On successfully completing the course students will be able to:

- 1) Demonstrate an informed understanding of the English literature of the Victorian period across a number of genres and sub-genres.
- 2) Demonstrate knowledge of some of the major literary, cultural and historical issues that mattered to the writers of the period.
- 3) Demonstrate a developing sense of the different forms of writing in this period and a growing capacity to analyse them critically.

**EXAMS:** final term paper for approximately 800 words

## MATERIAL COVERED:

Week Number	Main Content	Week Number	Main Content
1	General Introduction	9	Lewis Carroll & Robert Louis Stevenson
2	Charles Dickens	10	Lord Alfred Tennyson
3	George Eliot	11	Elizabeth Barrett Browning & Robert Browning
4	Thomas Hardy	12	Oscar Wilde
5	The Brontë sisters	13	Thomas Carlyle
6	Rudyard Kipling	14	John Stuart Mill
7	Wilkie Collins & Sir Arthur Conan Doyle	15	John Ruskin

8	Elizabeth Gaskell & The New Woman Writers	16	Charles Darwin & Thomas Henry Huxley
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