

## Victorian Literature

Code: 106298  
ECTS Credits: 6

**2025/2026**

Degree	Type	Year
English Studies	OB	2

## Contact

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## Teachers

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## Teaching groups languages

You can view this information at the [end](#) of this document.

## Prerequisites

- In order to take this course, it is highly recommended that students have passed the first-year subject Introduction to English Literature and the second-year subject Literature of British Romanticism.
- Language level required: C2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages: Learning, Teaching, Assessment.
- The competences acquired in the first-year subject Cultural History of the British Isles should be kept in mind.

## Objectives and Contextualisation

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SUBJECT

"Victorian Literature" offers an introduction to the fiction published in the United Kingdom during the reign of Queen Victoria (1837-1901) by reading, analysis, debate and through the critical interpretation of four texts.

This compulsory subject trains students, above all, in reading and interpreting a selection of texts. The training offered is essential to follow all subsequent English Literature subjects.

On completion of "Victorian Literature", students will be able to:

- Demonstrate a solid reading comprehension of Victorian literary fiction
- Produce basic literary criticism (academic papers with secondary sources)
- Use the resources of any university library in relation to Victorian Literature

- Express an informed assessment of the Victorian literary texts that have been studied

## Competences

- Apply scientific ethical principles to information processing.
- Apply the methodology of analysis and critical concepts to analysing the literature, culture and history of English-speaking countries.
- Identify and analyse the main currents, genres, works and authors in English and comparative literature.
- Students must be capable of communicating information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.
- Students must have and understand knowledge of an area of study built on the basis of general secondary education, and while it relies on some advanced textbooks it also includes some aspects coming from the forefront of its field of study.
- Take sex- or gender-based inequalities into consideration when operating within one's own area of knowledge.
- Understand and produce written and spoken academic texts in English at advanced higher-proficient-user level (C2).
- Use current philological methodologies to interpret literary texts in English and their cultural and historical context.
- Use digital tools and specific documentary sources for the collection and organisation of information.
- Use written and spoken English for academic and professional purposes, related to the study of linguistics, the philosophy of language, history, English culture and literature.

## Learning Outcomes

1. Analyse and interpret (at a basic level) literary texts in English of the nineteenth century.
2. Assess how stereotypes and gender roles are present in literary texts of British Romanticism and the Victorian period.
3. Conduct bibliographic searches of secondary sources related to nineteenth-century Literature using digital technologies.
4. Correctly contextualise literary texts in English of the nineteenth century in their corresponding historical and cultural environment.
5. Correctly contextualise nineteenth-century literary texts in English within the History of English Literature.
6. Demonstrate a solid knowledge of subjects related to the study of Literature and Culture in general.
7. Demonstrate understanding of a wide range of nineteenth-century literary texts in English and recognise implicit meaning.
8. Distinguish principal ideas from secondary ideas and synthesise the contents of literary texts of the nineteenth century.
9. Express oneself effectively by applying argumentative and textual procedures in formal and scientific texts, in the language studied.
10. Express oneself in English orally and in writing in an academic register and using appropriate terminology in relation to the study of nineteenth-century literature.
11. Incorporate ideas and concepts from published sources into work, citing and referencing appropriately.
12. Integrate secondary sources related to nineteenth-century Literature in the production of basic academic criticism.
13. Locate and organise relevant English-language information available on the internet, databases and libraries, and apply this to work and/or research environments.
14. Make oral presentations in English of academic content on topics related to nineteenth-century literary texts in English.
15. Participate in face-to-face and virtual discussions in English on topics related to nineteenth-century literary texts in English.
16. Write argumentative essays (C2) of medium length and produce textual commentaries in English on topics related to nineteenth-century literary texts in English.

## Content

- UNIT 1 - Reading *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall* (1847) by Anne Brontë. The 1840s-1850s
- UNIT 2 - Reading *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens. The 1860s-1870s
- UNIT 3 - Reading *King Solomon's Mines* (1885) by H. Rider Haggard. The 1880s
- UNIT 4 - Reading *Dracula* (1898) by Bram Stoker. The 1890s

## Activities and Methodology

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
Classroom interaction	20	0.8	5, 4, 6, 10, 14, 15
Lectures	30	1.2	1, 5, 4, 7, 6, 9, 14, 16, 2
Type: Supervised			
Other assesment activities (classroom participation, exam)	25	1	1, 5, 4, 7, 6, 8, 9, 10, 3, 14, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 2
Type: Autonomous			
Personal study	15	0.6	1, 7, 6, 10, 3, 2
Reading	35	1.4	1, 5, 4, 6, 8, 2

1 credit ECTS = 25 hours > 6 credits = 150 hours

It is recommended that students have taken the Library courses on MLA citation style and on Zotero, which are part of the assessment in the first-year course *Introduction to English Literature*.

Annotation: Within the schedule set by the centre or degree programme, 15 minutes of one class will be reserved for students to evaluate their lecturers and their courses or modules through questionnaires.

## Assessment

### Continous Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Class Participation	10%	4	0.16	9, 10, 14, 15
Critical essay	50%	17	0.68	1, 5, 4, 7, 6, 8, 9, 10, 3, 11, 12, 13, 16, 2
Exams/Exercises	40%	4	0.16	1, 5, 4, 7, 6, 8, 9, 10, 2

## ASSESSMENT

All evaluation dates will be confirmed at the beginning of the semester. The assessment for this subject is based on:

- 2 exams in class: 20% each (40%)
- 1 essay (1500 words, evidence from the primary sources and quotations from more than 2 secondary sources): 50%
- Participation in the classroom debates both the face-to-face and virtual 10% (self-assessment); students are expected to attend class regularly.

Please, note:

- Students will obtain a Not assessed/Not submitted course grade unless they have submitted more than 30% of the assessment items.
- The student's command of English will be taken into account when marking all exercises and for the final mark. It will count as 25% of this mark for all the exercises and will be assessed as follows: Grammar (morphology and syntax): 30%; Vocabulary (accuracy and variety): 15%; Consistency (among sentences and paragraphs): 15%; Organization (sound argumentation of ideas): 20%; Style (expression and register): 15%; Spelling: 5%.
- Important note for exchange students (Erasmus, etc.) on exams and other tests: Erasmus students who request to bring forward an exam or any other type of assessment activity must present the teacher with an official document from their home university justifying their request.
- Completing all the 3 exams is COMPULSORY. Any unsubmitted exercise will be awarded a 0.
- This course uses the MLA 9th edition citation style. The MLA usage manual is available in the library: *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research papers. MLA Handbook*. Ninth edition, The Modern Language Association of America, 2021.

## SINGLE ASSESSMENT

Single assessment consists of the following activities:

- Delivery of 1 essay (1500 words, at least three secondary sources): 50%
- Classroom exam: three questions (350-500 words) 50%

## REVIEWING PROCEDURE:

- Students have a right to review their exercises with the teacher in a personal tutorial. On carrying out each evaluation activity, lecturers will inform students (on Moodle) of the procedures to be followed for reviewing all grades awarded, and the date on which such a review will take place. The student loses this right if they fail to collect the exercise/exam within the period announced by the teacher.

## RE-ASSESSMENT (continuous and single assessment):

- Re-assessment cannot be taken if the subject has been passed (it cannot be used to obtain a higher grade).
- The student must have a minimum grade of 3.5 (maximum 4.8).
- It is mandatory to have submitted all the assessment exercises.
- The re-assessment exam will consist of a two-hour written exam on issues related to the subject, or an equivalent exercise.
- The exam or equivalent exercise is graded with a simple pass/fail. If the re-assessment exam is passed, the final grade of the course will be 5.0.
- The date and place of the exam or delivery of the equivalent exercise will be published by the faculty in mid-June.
- The student who can present a medical justification may choose to take this exam, or equivalent exercise, on a day and time agreed with the teaching staff.

## VERY IMPORTANT

- **READING:** You must read the compulsory works of the course. Any indication that the student has not completed their reading can affect the assessment negatively and result in a fail.
- **PLAGIARISM:** In case of plagiarism in an assessment activity, the student will be graded with a zero in that activity, regardless of any other disciplinary process that may take place. In case of new plagiarism, the student will receive a zero as the final grade of the subject. Plagiarism consists of copying texts from unrecognized sources and presenting them as one's own. It includes cutting and pasting unrecognized internet sources, presented unmodified in the student's text. The intellectual property of authors must be respected, always identifying the sources they can use; You must also be responsible for the originality and authenticity of the works delivered.
- **ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE** and other irregularities: authorship of the exercises submitted must always be 100% by the student; exercises in which the use of digital tools are used to alter the student's original production will result in a fail. This subject entirely prohibits the use of AI technologies in all of its activities. Any submitted work that contains content generated using AI will be considered academic dishonesty; the corresponding grade will be awarded a zero, without the possibility of reassessment. In cases of greater infringement, more serious action may be taken. Other irregularities can refer, for instance, to copying in an exam or copying from sources without indicating authorship. Similarly, these evaluation activities will not be re-assessed.

## Bibliography

### OBLIGATORY READING

Please note: YOU NEED TO OBTAIN THE TEXTS WE WILL BE WORKING ON BEFORE THE COURSE BEGINS.

We recommend that you use the editions below. If you cannot, please ensure that your edition is a reliable one. Reliable publishing houses include: Oxford World Classics, Norton, or Penguin.

UNIT 1: *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall* (1847) Anne Brontë (Oxford World's Classics edition)

*Other recommendations:*

- Emily Brontë, *Wuthering Heights*
- Charlotte Brontë, *Jane Eyre*

UNIT 2: *Great Expectations* (1860), Charles Dickens (Oxford World's Classics edition)

*Other recommendations:*

- Charles Dickens, *Oliver Twist*
- Elizabeth Gaskell, *North and South*

UNIT 3: *King Solomon's Mines* (1885), Henry Rider Haggard (Oxford World's Classics edition)

*Other recommendations:*

- Robert Louis Stevenson, *Treasure Island*
- George MacDonald, *The Princess and the Goblin*
- Henry Rider Haggard, *She, a History of Adventure*

UNIT 4: *Dracula* (1898), Bram Stoker (Oxford World's Classics edition)

*Other recommendations:*

- Oscar Wilde, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*

- Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*
- Herbert George Wells, *The War of the Worlds*

## RECOMMENDED READING (available in the library)

### How to analyse, read, and write

- Habib, M.A.R. *Literary criticism from Plato to the present: an introduction*, 2011.
- Leitch, Vincent. *The Norton anthology of theory and criticism*, 2001.
- Phelan, Jon. *Literature and Understanding: The Value of a Close Reading of Literary Texts*, 2020.

### Victorian Literature in context

- Marx, Karl. *The Communist Manifesto*.
- Morris, William. *News from Nowhere*.
- Engels, Friedrich. *The Condition of the Working Class in England in 1844*.
- Carlisle, Janice. *Picturing Reform in Victorian Britain*, 2012.
- Eagleton, Terry. *The English novel: an introduction*, 2013.
- David, Deirdre. *The Cambridge Companion to the Victorian Novel*, 2012.
- Denisoff, Dennis. *The Routledge companion to Victorian literature*, 2020.
- Moran, Maureen. *Victorian Literature and Culture (Introductions to British Literature and Culture)*. London: Continuum, 2006 (2009)
- Peterson, Linda. *The Cambridge Companion to Victorian Women's Writing*, 2015.
- Steer, Philip. *Settler colonialism in Victorian literature : economics and political identity in the networks of empire*, 2020.

### On the novels in analysis

- Fisher, Dalene. *Resisting the Marriage Plot : Faith and Female Agency in Austen, Bronte, Gaskell, and Wollstonecraft*, 2021.
- Gilbert, Sandra M.; Gubar, Susan. *The Madwoman in the attic : the woman writer and the nineteenth-century literary imagination*, 1979.
- Glen, Heather. *The Cambridge Companion to the Brontës*, 2002.
- Hoeveler, Diane L. *A companion to the Brontës*, Hoeveler, 2016.
- Houston, Gail Turley. *From Dickens to Dracula: Gothic, Economics, and Victorian Fiction*, 2005.
- Hughes, William. *Bram Stoker's Dracula: A Reader's Guide*, 2009.
- Lewis, Jessica. *Anne Brontë and Lord Byron: Lost Echoes of Influence*, 2025.
- Low, Gail Ching-Liang. *White Skins/Black Masks: Representation and Colonialism*, 2003
- Luckhurst, Roger. *The Cambridge Companion to Dracula*, 2017.
- Miller, Lucasta. *The Brontë myth*, 2003.
- Schilling, Bernard. *Rain of Years: Great Expectations and the World of Dickens*, 2001.
- *The Manuscript of Great Expectations: from the Townshend Collection*, Wisbech. Dickens, Charles, 2015.
- Vranken, Thomas. *Simulating Antiquity in Boys' Adventure Fiction: Maps and Ink Stains*, 2022.
- Young, J.E. *The Shelleyan Brontës: Mary and Percy Shelley in the Work of the Brontës*, 2024.

### Webs

- The Victorian Web, <http://www.victorianweb.org/>
- Voice of the Shuttle: <http://vos.ucsb.edu/index.asp>
- BUB Link: English Literature General: <http://bubl.ac.uk/Link/e/englishliterature-general.htm>

## Software

There are no specific programmes for this course.

## Groups and Languages

Please note that this information is provisional until 30 November 2025. You can check it through this [link](#). To consult the language you will need to enter the CODE of the subject.

Name	Group	Language	Semester	Turn
(PAUL) Classroom practices	1	English	second semester	morning-mixed
(PAUL) Classroom practices	2	English	second semester	morning-mixed
(TE) Theory	1	English	second semester	morning-mixed
(TE) Theory	2	English	second semester	morning-mixed