

EN3C2-30 The English Nineteenth-Century Novel

20/21

Department

English and Comparative Literary Studies

Level

Undergraduate Level 3

Module leader

Michael Meeuwis

Credit value

30

Module duration

18 weeks

Assessment

100% coursework

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

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[Module web page](#)

Module aims

This module aims to explore the rise of the novel as both a genre and a concept, and the ways in which it developed in the particular context of nineteenth-century Britain, responding to rapid social change and the corresponding shifting understandings of class, gender, sexuality, nation and culture. We shall consider how nineteenth-century readers and critics taxonomised the novel, and how they invested heavily in what they thought its purpose and formula should be. So too, we will consider the C19th novel outside its historical context, as subject to multiplicitous readings, defamiliarising the novel through critical lenses. The module traverses a range of various styles such as "social realism", "the bildungsroman", "sensationalism", "historical novel", "fantasy" and cover topics such as masculinity, the new woman, sexuality, childhood, landscapes, Empire, dialogues between image and text, evolution, and illness. Texts from the popular to the literary, from the canonical to those often overlooked post-1900, are explored. Writers may include Walter

Scott, Jane Austen, Charles Dickens, Thomas Hardy, Lewis Carroll, Charlotte Brontë, H. Rider Haggard, and William Thackeray.

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

TERM 1: Realisms

In the first term we will firstly consider what the novel is and how, as a concept, it was bound up with ideas of literary and social realism.

TERM 2: “Other” Worlds

In the second term we will consider a variety of “other” literatures – popular, literary, canonical, obscure – that deal with subject matters that appear the antithesis to realism; so the Gothic and Sensational, detective fiction, and adventure. Yet, through an assessment of both contemporary and modern reception and critical approaches, we will interrogate the assumptions surrounding these genres, as well.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate a consolidated understanding of prose fiction in its nineteenth-century historical, cultural, social, political, economic, religious, scientific and aesthetic context;
- Demonstrate close-reading skills, skills in critical analysis, and an ability to manage own learning, including having devised and designed research questions;
- Demonstrated a critical understanding of nineteenth-century literary works and the ability to distinguish and discriminate between their differing styles;
- Demonstrate a consolidated understanding of the relationship between nineteenth-century authors, readers, and critics, and how they helped shape complex ideas of the purpose and characteristics of the “English novel”.
- Demonstrate a consolidated understanding of some of the main critical lenses through which the core texts may be read (i.e. postcolonialism, new historicism, feminism, structuralism), and show an awareness of current scholarly research and critical approaches in the field;
- To develop scholarly written communication skills focused on theoretical and literary material, and the ability to effectively communicate complex information and abstract arguments.
- Demonstrate the ability to research, structure, and present an extended piece of writing on a topic of research of the student’s own choosing.

Subject specific skills

No subject specific skills defined for this module.

Transferable skills

No transferable skills defined for this module.

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	5 sessions of 1 hour (2%)
Seminars	18 sessions of 1 hour 30 minutes (9%)
Private study	268 hours (89%)
Total	300 hours

Private study description

Reading & research

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You do not need to pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Assessment group A1

	Weighting	Study time
1x 3500 word essay	50%	
1 X 3500-word essay	50%	

Feedback on assessment

Written feedback on assignments which will offer at least 3 suggestions for improvement and detail how their work corresponded with the marking criteria.

Optional individual meetings or email correspondence with students to discuss in more details the specificities of the written feedback.

Availability

Courses

This module is Optional for:

- Year 3 of UENA-Q300 Undergraduate English Literature
- Year 3 of UENA-QP36 Undergraduate English Literature and Creative Writing
- Year 4 of UENA-QP37 Undergraduate English Literature and Creative Writing with Intercalated Year
- Year 4 of UENA-Q301 Undergraduate English Literature with Intercalated Year
- Year 3 of UENA-VQ32 Undergraduate English and History
- Year 4 of UENA-QW35 Undergraduate English and Theatre Studies with Intercalated Year
- Year 4 of UFIA-QW26 Undergraduate Film and Literature (with Study Abroad)

This module is Option list A for:

- Year 3 of UCXA-QQ37 Undergraduate Classics and English
- Year 3 of UFIA-QW25 Undergraduate Film and Literature

This module is Option list B for:

- Year 3 of UTHA-QW34 Undergraduate English and Theatre Studies

This module is Option list C for:

- Year 3 of UPHA-VQ72 Undergraduate Philosophy and Literature
- Year 4 of UPHA-VQ73 Undergraduate Philosophy and Literature with Intercalated Year