

EN3C2-30 The English Nineteenth-Century Novel

22/23

Department

English and Comparative Literary Studies

Level

Undergraduate Level 3

Module leader

Jen Baker

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.

Indicative and subject to change.

Term One

WEEK ONE

Literature and The Novel in C19th Thought: Part 1

WEEK TWO

First Instalment of serialised text

Gérard Genette, "Introduction" from *Paratexts: Thresholds of interpretation*. No. 20. Cambridge University Press, 1997.

Rob Allen, "'Pause You Who Read This': Disruption and the Victorian Serial Novel." *Serialization in Popular Culture* (ed. Rob Allen and Thijs van den Berg). Routledge, 2014. 45-58.

Emily Steinlight, "'Anti-Bleak House': Advertising and the Victorian novel." *Narrative* 14.2 (2006): 132-162.

Peter Wagner, "The Nineteenth-century Illustrated Novel" *Handbook of Intermediality*, edited by Gabriele Rippl. De Gruyter, 2015, pp. 378-400.

WEEK THREE

2nd Serial Instalment

Maria Edgeworth *Belinda* (1801), vol. i (chapters I-XII) and paratexts outlined in Reading Guidance

WEEK FOUR

next Serial Instalment

Maria Edgeworth *Belinda* (1801), vol. ii and iii (chapters XIII "Sortes Virgilianae" to the end) and the "Original Sketch" - see Reading Guidance

Required Critical Reading: Read and annotate Edward Said, i. *Narrative and Social Space* and ii. *Jane Austen and Empire from Culture and Imperialism* (1993)

WEEK FIVE

Next Serial Instalment

Walter Scott *Ivanhoe* (1819/1830) vol.i (chs. I-XXIII) and Paratexts as outlined in Reading Guidance

READING WEEK

WEEK SEVEN

Serial Instalment

Walter Scott *Ivanhoe* (1819/1830) vol.ii (chs. XXIV-End)

Required Critical Reading: Read and annotate Introduction from Heidi Kaufman, *English Origins, Jewish Discourse, and the Nineteenth-century British Novel: Reflections on a Nested Nation*.

Pennsylvania State University Press, 2009. pp.1-26.

WEEK EIGHT

Serial Instalment

Elizabeth Gaskell, *Mary Barton: A Tale of Manchester Life* (1848), vol.i (ch.I-XVII) - ensure to read the prefaces/epigraphs etc. See Reading Guidance

Required Critical Reading: This selection of Gaskell's letters, reviews of the book, contemporary context, illustrations.

WEEK NINE

Serial Instalment

Elizabeth Gaskell, *Mary Barton A Tale of Manchester Life* (1848), vol.ii (ch.XVIII-End)

Required Critical Reading: Read and annotate Caroline Levine, "Victorian Realism." *The Cambridge Companion to the Victorian Novel*, edited by Deirdre David, 2nd ed., Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2012, pp. 84–106.

WEEK TEN

Serial Instalment

Charlotte Brontë, *Villette* (1853) vol. i (chs. I-XV) and Charlotte's letter (appendix A) - see Reading Guidance

Required Critical Reading: Read and annotate extract from Athena Vrettos' introduction to *Somatic Fictions: Imagining illness in Victorian culture*. Stanford University Press, 1995.

Term 2

Week One

Serial Instalment

And paratexts on either archive.org [back to front] or UVic

Charlotte Brontë, *Villette* (1853) vol.ii and iii [chapter XVI- End] and appendices in Reading Guidance

Required Critical Reading: Read and annotate Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick, "The Character in the Veil: Imagery of the Surface in the Gothic Novel." *PMLA/Publications of the Modern Language Association of America* 96.2 (1981): 255-270.

Week Two

Serial Instalment

Charles Kingsley, *The Water-Babies: A Fairy Tale for a Land Baby* (1863) - see Reading Guidance

Required Critical Reading: Read and annotate extracts from Darwin's *On the Origin of Species* (1859)

Week Three

Serial Instalment

Thomas Hardy, *Far From the Madding Crowd* (1874) Vol.I [Preface and Ch. I-XXX] - see Reading Guidance

Required Critical Reading: Read and annotate Hardy "The Dorset Farmer Labourer" (1884)

Week Four

Serial Instalment

Thomas Hardy, *Far From the Madding Crowd* (1874) Vol.II [XXXI "Blame-Fury" - End]

Week Five

Serial Instalment

H. Rider Haggard, *She: A History of Adventure* (1887) -see Reading Guidance

Required Critical Reading: Read and annotate extracts from Rebecca Stott, "Scaping the body: Of cannibal mothers and colonial landscapes." *The New Woman in Fiction and in Fact*. Palgrave Macmillan, London, 2002. 150-166.

READING WEEK

Week Seven

Serial Instalment of David Copperfield, No.14, June, 1850

George Gissing, *New Grub Street* (1891) [chapters I-XX, c.240pp] - see Reading Guidance

Required Critical Reading: George Gissing, "The Place of Realism in Fiction" (1895) plus brief quote on Dickens.

Week Eight

Serial Instalment

George Gissing, *New Grub Street* (1891) [chapters XXI – End]

Required Critical Reading: Read and annotate Mona Caird, extract from "Marriage" (1888)

Week Nine

Serial Instalment

H.G. Wells, *The War of the Worlds* (1898) c.160pp. See Reading Guidance.

Required Critical Reading: Read/annotate Wells' essay "On Extinction" (1893) and Herbert Fyfe's essay "How Will the World End?" (1900)

Week Ten

Final serial Instalments

Literature and The Novel in C19th Thought: Part 2

Required Critical Reading: Read and annotate Brian Cheadle, "What is David Copperfield?." *Essays in Criticism* 69.1 (2019): 51-73.

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. material cultures, 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.

Indicative reading list

[View reading list on Talis Aspire](#)

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 2 hours (12%)
Private study	259 hours (86%)
Total	300 hours

Private study description

Reading & research, plus any preparatory tasks.

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 A2

	Weighting	Study time
1x 3500 word essay	35%	

	Weighting	Study time
1 X 4000-word essay	50%	
Critical reflection	15%	

A critical reflection on a specified aspect of the module, such as the process of reading or researching, or engagement with the wider discipline through attending external academic events, for example.

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
- UENA-VQ33 Undergraduate English and History (with Intercalated year)
 - Year 4 of VQ33 English and History (with Intercalated year)
 - Year 4 of VQ33 English and History (with Intercalated year)
- 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 Core option list C for:

- Year 4 of UCXA-QQ38 Undergraduate Classics and English (with Intercalated Year)

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