

MODULE DESCRIPTOR

MODULE TITLE	FROM ROMANTICS TO DECADENTS: LITERARY CULTURE 1789-1900		
MODULE CODE	EN2129 (L5)	CREDIT VALUE	20 UK / 10 ECTS
SCHOOL	SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT		

MODULE AIMS

This module aims to:

- Evaluate and analyse the literature of the 'long nineteenth century,' examining the complexity and variety of forms.
- Enable students to acquire a knowledge and understanding of individual texts from this period through close reading and critical analysis.
- Explore the cultural and historical background which frames the emergence and development of writing from the period.
- Develop understanding of the impact of writing from this era of the development of English Literature, building on work undertaken in EN1217 Introduction to the Renaissance.
- Engage with a range of theoretical models as they apply to such issues as class, gender, identity, and styles of writing and reading, building on work undertaken in EN1215 Literary Theory.
- Develop and enhance research, writing and oral presentation skills.

MODULE CONTENT

This module will examine a selection of poems and novels from the late-eighteenth through to the Fin de Siècle, assessing the various literary styles that emerged in Romantic and Victorian contexts. The module will emphasise the radically innovative aspects of Romantic writing, both in expression and in thought and feeling, as well as assessing the impact of the 'Gothic.' We will also consider the development of the novel in the nineteenth century and the impact of other cultural debates on literary production.

You will be encouraged to consider the historical backgrounds and address the influence on literature of such features as political revolution, economic change, imperialism and urbanisation. We will, throughout this module, examine a selection of literature from a variety of genres, both fiction and nonfiction, emphasising the important historical and cultural contexts to form and structure. Texts, both canonical and non-canonical, will be considered in their own right and in their relationship to each other, to the wider cultural landscape of their production.

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

On successful completion of this module a student will be able to:	
1.	Understand the development of literary output in the wider historical and cultural context.
2.	Read text closely and effectively to produce analytical and critical response to the literature studied.
3.	Understand and apply relevant theoretical approaches
4.	Produce clear and precise written and oral responses to the literature of the period
5.	Produce and apply thorough and relevant research relating to the literature of this period.

TEACHING METHODS

Learning and Teaching

This module is delivered through a range of lecture, seminars, workshops and review session, including film showings and documentaries. We will also make use of online resources, including digital archives as primary resources, as well as scholarly articles for your research.

Lectures will foreground the wider theoretical and generic issues appropriate to the module, and seminars will follow up these issues with reference to specific texts (both primary and secondary), providing the opportunity for more detailed application and discussion of these debates. Workshops will be an opportunity for you to participate in the delivery of learning information, through your own presentations and through informal exercises set by your tutor. In seminars and workshop sessions, you will be expected to offer opinions, listen to the opinions of others, and debate key points that enhance your understanding of the literary texts and its importance to academic study. In seminars, therefore, you develop key skills in debating, critical thinking, close reading, analysis and negotiation, as well as subject-specific knowledge and understanding.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS: In common with all other English modules, this module is designed to foster an active, participatory, independent approach to learning, to develop critical faculties and to consolidate and develop written and oral communication skills, and to develop a considerate cultural awareness and sensitivity to the backgrounds and beliefs of those around you.

Assessment

You will be required to give a presentation, with a small group of other students, or individually, to your seminar group, on a topic agreed with your seminar tutor. The presentation is an opportunity for you to tailor learning sessions and participate in detailed analysis of your chosen area, developing an ability to deliver important material in digestible form. You must also submit a reflection of the presentation including notes used for the exercise.

The second assignment an essay, of 2,000 words, expects you to demonstrate your ability to conduct extra research, to build on the learning sessions and begin to assess the value of digital resources. You should, in this essay, make sure you respond to the comments given to you in your previous work, to ensure that your writing improves.

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS: research; close reading and attention to detail; construction of logical, sustained argument; proof-reading (for both oral and written communication); consideration of audience.

As is common in all literature modules, you will be expected to show cultural sensitivity in all your assessed work as well in your taught sessions.

All assessment briefs will be delivered in teaching sessions.

ASSESSMENT METHODS

This module is assessed through a presentation/report (30%) and an essay (70%).