**Course name**: Victorian Novels

**Course Instructor**:

**Email**:

**Course Code**: LR216

**Office location:**

**Office hours**:

**Credit hours**: 3

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course provides a survey of important movements and dynamics of Victorian novel. This course surveys a range of novels produced while reflecting and revealing about Victorian age. This course will explore novels from the period 1832-1901 in literary, historical, social, and cultural context. The Victorian period was one of massive social, ideological and cultural transformation: the industrial revolution, scientific and technological progress, colonial expansion, and changing notions of femininity and domesticity were just some of the many concerns addressed in texts of the period. It was also the age of urbanization, steam power, class conflict, Darwin, religious crisis, imperial expansion, information explosion, bureaucratization – and much more. This course will introduce students to some significant texts and literary movements of the period, in the wider context of social transformation and emerging literary practices. We will connect with these issues by reading a range of Victorian texts as well as topical critical studies of the epoch.  Topics will include the liaison of the Victorian novel to empire and to issues of gender, Victorian travel and science, the social and cultural impact of industrialization, Victorian philosophy of femininity and sexuality, and constructions of the domestic and the foreign in Victorian culture.  The course will involve a mixture of lectures and class discussions.

**Course Objectives:**

* Students will be able to understand and interpret key Victorian texts.
* Students will be able to examine the selected novels.
* Students will be able to strengthen the ability to read literary works closely and sensitively.
* Students will be able to foster the practice of relating texts to their various contexts.
* Students will be able to develop the habit of comparative study of literary works.
* Students will become familiar with social and cultural atmosphere from which the novel arose.
* Students will become familiar with the critical and theoretical contexts in which these texts have been and are currently being read.
* To make students conscious of the paradigm of that age that has fashioned our current world.
* Students will become familiar with a range of both central and more obscure Victorian texts, and have an analytical knowledge of some aspects of Victorian literature and culture.

**COURSE DELIVERY METHOD**

In every meeting, the lecturer will lead/moderate the discussion in constructive way. Students will work individually or in a small group to give their own opinion or understanding on the materials. Students are expected to have a prior knowledge in the materials in order to have discussion and to arrive conclusion. The lecturer will facilitate the discussion and give guidance. Students are expected to read and have a thorough knowledge of novels. Lectures will introduce the historical background of the Victorian period, and cover the production, reception and interpretation of the set texts. Students will team up in pairs to lead class discussion throughout the semester.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**In this course, students are expected to:**

* In every meeting, the students are obligated to read or to have a prior knowledge by reading the “set material” given in the first meeting.
* In every meeting, the students will participate to have discussion on the materials.
* Attend all class sessions for requisite number of hours and participate in class activities.
* **Keep up with the reading.**
* Complete all assignments in time.
* Prepare and appear in all **announced/ unannounced quizzes.**
* Respect and benefit from diverse, often opposing, values and opinions.
* Make use of the criticism offered by the instructor and peers positively by revising the work.
* Make use of library, dictionary, take notes, and raise questions during reading tasks.
* Fully participate in class discussions and help foster a discourse community by listening to the peers’ views and ideas as well as articulating their own in an effective manner.
* Pass midterm and final term exam.

Course requirements include **active participation** in class and the timely completion of all assigned readings and written work.  **Late papers will not be accepted without prior permission.**

* Please read all the texts for a given day, even though we might not discuss each one equally during that hour. We have several class sessions scheduled per novel; I will tell you in advance how far you need to read to keep up with class discussion.

Each of you has shared responsibility for what happens in this course and for what you get from it. Each of you has a unique perspective that you bring to a text that could enrich other readers’ understanding. I look forward to hearing from each of you during the semester.

**COURSE POLICIES**

* **Late submission** of assignments **will not be entertained. (Unexcused late papers** will be **penalized one step (from an A to an A-, for example) every day they are late).** If you have an emergency, do let me know.
* **Academic honesty** should be assumed.
* **Avoid Plagiarism.** All the cases of plagiarism will be referred to controller’s office. Please click the link given below for university policy on plagiarism. (<http://www.uvas.edu.pk/news/HEC_PLIAGERISM_POLICY.pdf>)
* Students who miss more than six lectures will not be allowed to attend the final examination.
* **Teacher reserves the right to make new rules and changes to the course, if required.**
* Laptops and cell-phones must be switched off during lectures.
* **No retake of missed quizzes.**
* **NO COPIED ASSIGNMENTS!**
* I’m here to help and will be glad to meet with you to discuss your papers or any other concerns.

**RECOMMENDED READINGS:**

*Oliver Twist (Serialised* ***1837****–****1839)***

*Hard Times (1854) (Charles Dickens)*

*The Mill on the Floss* (1860) (George Eliot)

*The Woman in White* (1859) (Wilkie Collins)

*Jude the Obscure* (Thomas Hardy)

**Secondary Sources:**

Brantlinger, Patrick and William B. Thesing. A Companion to the Victorian Novel. Maldon, MA.: Blackwell, 2005.

Purchase, Sean. *Key Concepts in Victorian Literature*. Palgrave Key Concepts. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2006.

The Oxford handbook of the Victorian novel, edited by Lisa Rodensky (2013)

 Linda K. Hughes, “1870,” in Herbert F. Tucker, ed., *A Companion to Victorian Literature and Culture* (Blackwell 1999

**COURSE CONTENTS**

**Week 1**

Course Introduction

Introduction to Victorian Novel + Victorian Era

Definition of Novel

Characterization/ Plot/ Climax/ Ending

**Week 2**

Introduction of Charles Dickens

*Oliver Twist* (excerpts 200pg)

**(Quiz)**

**Week 3**

*Oliver Twist* (ending)

**(Assignment)**

**Week 4**

Discussion on *Oliver Twist*

Characters/themes/ important passage

**Week 5**

Characteristics of Charles Dickens

*Hard Times* (Excerpts 200 pages)

**(Quiz)**

**Week 6**

*Hard Times* (excerpts) (Ending)

**(Assignment)**

**Week 7**

Discussion on *Hard Times*

Characters/Themes

**Week 8**

**MID TERM**

**Week 9**

Introduction of Wilkie Collins**/ Sensation Novels**

*The Woman in White* (excerpts 200 pages)

Discussion

**Week 10**

*The Woman in White* (excerpts) (Ending)

**(Assignment)**

**Week 11**

Discussion on *The Woman in White*

**(Quiz)**

**Week 12**

Introduction of George Eliot

*The Mill on the Floss* (Excerpts 200 pages)

**Week 13**

*The Mill on the Floss* (Ending)

**(Assignment)**

**Week 14**

Discussion on *The Mill on the Floss*

**(Quiz)**

**Week 15**

**Presentation + Final Term**

**ASSESSMENT CRITERIA**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Tasks** | **Weight age (marks)** |
| **Assignment-1** (10-points) | 10% |
| **Assignment-2**  (10-points) |  |
| **Assignment-3** (10-points) |  |
| **Assignment-4** (10-points) |  |
| **Assignment-5** (10-points) |  |
| **Instructions:** All written work should be carefully edited and proof-read for grammar and punctuation, as well as for clarity of ideas and thoughts. All work should be submitted in typed & printed form prepared on Word doc. |  |
| Quiz-1 (10-points)  Quiz-2 (10-points)  Quiz-3 (10-points)  Quiz-4 (10-points) | 10% |
| Presentations | 10% |
| Class Participation/ Graded Discussions | 10% |
| Mid Term | 25% |
| Final Exam | 35% |