

UNIVERSITY OF RIJEKA Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

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Department of English Studies

General information		
Name of the course	Neo-Victorianism	
Course instructor	Dr Antonija Primorac, Associate Professor	
Study programme	Undergraduate Study Programme in English Language and Literature	
Status of the course	Elective	
Academic year	2022-2023 (winter semester)	
Language	English	
ECTS credits and	ECTS credits	2
manner of instruction	Number of class hours	30+0+0
	(Lectures + Exercises + Seminars)	

1. COURSE DESCRIPTION

1.1. Course objectives

The course objectives are: to introduce students to the development and spread of Neo-Victorianism (the use of elements of Victorian literature and culture) in contemporary Anglophone literature and culture; to offer an insight into theoretical debates about Neo-Victorianism as a theoretical concept on the one hand and as an object of study on the other; to critically analyze the use of aesthetic and ideological elements of the Victorian era in neo-Victorian literature and audio/visual forms; to raise the awareness of the role played by cultural nostalgia in the production of Neo-Victorianism; to point to the links between Neo-Victorianism and postcolonial, postfeminist and postmodern approaches to the literary text; to examine the transmedial nature of the Neo-Victorian adaptations of the Victorian era.

1.2. Course enrolment requirements and entry competences required for the course

Excellent command of written and spoken English.

Interest in or knowledge of 19th century British literature, history, and/or art an advantage (but not a requirement).

1.3. Expected course learning outcomes

Upon successfully completing the course the students will be able to:

- explain the relationship between neo-Victorianism, cultural nostalgia and victorian literature and culture;
- describe the key characteristics of neo-Victorianism
- explain the relationship between neo-Victorianism and postcolonialism, postfeminism and postmodernism
- explain the connections between neo-Victorianism and the historical novel, historiographic metafiction, revisionist historiography and retro-aesthetics
- using close reading of a chosen text or texts, write either an essay in which they will independently analyse the aesthetic and ideological dimension of neo-Victorianism as a contemporary multimedia phenomenon, or a comparative critical analysis.

1.4. Course content

The course will deal with the following topics:

- Introduction: what is neo-Victorianism?
- Theoretical dilemmas and issues
- Neo-Victorianism and stereotypes about the Victorian era
- Neo-Victorianism and the re-vision of Victorian classics: postcolonial interventions
- Neo-Victorianism and the re-vision of Victorian classics: feminist and postfeminist re-visions
- Neo-Victorianism and the re-vision of Victorian classics: LGBT and queer Victorians
- Neo-Victorianism and nostalgia
- Neo-Victorian graphic novels
- Neo-Victorian film and TV
- Steampunk and neo-Victorianism: questioning the Empire, race, and class issues. Historical revisionism.
- Neo-Victorianism and Spiritualism
- Neo-Victorian Aesthetics: recycling, citation and retro-art of the collage in audio/visual works

1.5. Manner of instruction

- ✓ Lectures
- ✓ Individual assignments
- ✓ Multimedia and network
- ✓ Mentorship
- ✓ Other: consultations