

# Victorian Literature

Autumn, 2023-2024

**INSTRUCTOR:** Na Li

**EMAIL:** 282380217@qq.com

**OFFICE HOURS:** Wednesday 13:00—17:00

## DESCRIPTION:

This course aims to explore the representation of women in literature across different periods, genres, and cultures. The course will focus on both the portrayal of women by authors and the contributions of women writers themselves. As this course is designed for students not majoring in English literature, the materials and discussions will be accessible, with an emphasis on understanding the broader cultural, social, and historical contexts.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES:

This module aims to help students to

- Understand the evolution of the representation of women in literature;
- Analyze the contributions of women writers to literary traditions;
- Discuss themes such as gender, identity, power, and resistance in literature;
- Develop critical thinking and analytical skills through reading and discussing literary texts.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR THIS COURSE:

On successfully completing the course students will be able to:

- 1) Demonstrate an informed understanding of representation of women in literature across a number of periods and genres.
- 2) Demonstrate knowledge of some of the major literary, cultural and historical issues that mattered to the development of women writers in literature and feminism.
- 3) Demonstrate a developing sense of feminist literary criticism and a growing capacity to analyse key texts in the area critically.

**EXAMS:** final term paper for approximately 800 words

## MATERIAL COVERED:

Week Number	Main Content	Week Number	Main Content
1	General Introduction	9	Women and African American Literature
2	Women in Classical Literature	10	Women in Contemporary Literature
3	Women and Medieval Literature	11	Feminist Literary Criticism
4	Renaissance Women Writers	12	Women in Drama
5	Women and the Enlightenment	13	Women and Poetry
6	Victorian Women and Literature	14	Women and Autobiography
7	Early 20th Century Women Writers	15	Women and Science Fiction/Fantasy
8	Women and Postcolonial Literature	16	Women, Literature, and Social Media