Course Description

This course explores how contemporary adaptive media appropriate the nineteenth century to address our own preoccupations with gender, sexuality, race, class, science, technologies, religion, imperialism, and consumerism. The aim of the course is to familiarize students with the theoretical, social, and political contexts and critical discourses of this neo-Victorian enterprise. The course incorporates a variety of cultural products from postmodern fiction and graphic novels, through films, to exhibition spaces and theme parks. These texts are mainly approached via literary and cultural studies, utilizing further interdisciplinary frameworks of trauma, adaptation and memory studies that draw on a wide range of fields including psychology, film studies, philosophy, and history. This course investigates reasons and trajectories of post-millennial connections to the Victorian age, ways in which different cultural concepts are transposed and transformed, and the critical consciousness of our own investment into the mediation and dissemination of historical narratives.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students will understand Neo-Victorianism as a dynamic cultural formation, the critical issues it is concerned with, and the scholarly debates that surround it. Students will be able to establish significant connections between literary passages and representations in visual culture, such as films or exhibitions. They will possess the critical apparatus to read and analyze these neo-Victorian (con)texts in an interdisciplinary framework.

Requirements and Assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance and Participation in Seminar Discussions</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leading a Group Presentation</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presenting a Reading</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper Proposal (300-500wds)</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term Paper (2000-2500wds)</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Weekly Topics and Readings**

1. **What is Victorianism?**
   
   
   
   

2. **What is Neo-Victorianism?**
   
   

3. **Gender and Sexuality**
   
   
   

4. **(Post)Colonial Traumas**
   
   
   Dianne F Sadoff, "The Neo-Victorian Nation at Home and Abroad: Charles Dickens and Traumatic Rewriting." In *Neo-Victorian Tropes of Trauma: The Politics of Bearing*


5. Science and Religion


6. Darwin’s Missing Link: "The Gentleman Monkey"


7. History, Technology, and Defamiliarization: Steampunk Comics


8. Serialized fiction into TV Series: The Case of Sherlock Holmes
Benjamin Poore, "Sherlock Holmes and the Leap of Faith: The Forces of Fandom and


Excerpts from the BBC-Series *Sherlock* created by Mark Gatiss and Steven Moffat 2010-2014, the CBS-Series *Elementary* created by Robert Doherty 2012-2014 and the Russian *Шерлок Холмс* created by Andrey Kavun in 2013.

**9. A Film without a Source-Text: Jane Campion’s The Piano**


Excerpts from Jane Campion’s *The Piano*. Bac Films (France) Miramax Films (US)
Entertainment Film Distributors (UK), 1993.

**10. Museum Culture to Theme Park**


**11. Exhibitions, Cultural Memory, and Cultural Policy**


**12. Conclusion, Discussion of Seminar Projects**
This syllabus is subject to change