

Module Specification

Module Summary Information

1	Module Title	Psychology in Victorian Literature
2	Module Credits	20
3	Module Level	6
4	Module Code	EGL6132

5	Module Overview
<p>The module explores the relationship between literature and the development of psychological thought in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries before the advent of laboratory-based experimental work. Ideas about character formation which inform the literary examination of character in nineteenth-century poetry and prose will be placed in the context of philosophical and scientific descriptions of mental development during the period. The connections between nineteenth-century psychology and "pseudo-scientific" discourses such as phrenology and mesmerism will also come under scrutiny, as will the close relationship between psychology and Victorian medical discourse.</p> <p>The module aims to introduce students to questions surrounding the historical emergence of psychology as a scientific discipline, and to a post-Romantic conception of literature as concerned with the analysis and portrayal of psychological peculiarity and aberration. Students will learn to recognise the presence of psychological and medical discourse in nineteenth-century texts, and to relate this psychological discourse to wider cultural and social issues raised by the advent of social and political modernity in the nineteenth century.</p>	

6	Indicative Content
<p>The module begins with an introduction to the emerging discipline of psychology in the nineteenth century, alongside the development of the asylum system, and a newly medicalised discourse of the mind. Specific aspects of psychological approaches will be explored each week alongside novels by Dostoevsky, Dickens and Bronte, among others. A wide range of psychological texts of the period will be provided to offer students context for the literary texts.</p>	

7	Module Learning Outcomes
On successful completion of the module, students will be able to:	
1	Demonstrate an ability to integrate psychological perspectives with the critical interpretation of literary texts.
2	Situate nineteenth-century psychological discourses in historical and social context.
3	Make connections between nineteenth-century psychological, medical and philosophical discourses.

8 Module Assessment			
Learning Outcome			
	Coursework	Exam	In-Person
1, 2, 3, 4	X		

9 Breakdown Learning and Teaching Activities	
Learning Activities	Hours
Scheduled Learning (SL) includes lectures, practical classes and workshops, peer group learning, Graduate+, as specified in timetable	36
Directed Learning (DL) includes placements, work-based learning, external visits, on-line activity, Graduate+, peer learning, as directed on VLE	100
Private Study (PS) includes preparation for exams	64
Total Study Hours:	200