

SEMESTER	III
PAPER NO	9
PAPER TITLE	NINETEENTH-CENTURY ENGLISH PROSE UPTO 1901
PAPER CODE	MENG4301
THEORY/ PRACTICAL	THEORY
NO OF CREDITS	6
COURSE OBJECTIVES	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This paper aims at a comprehensive study of the evolution of English prose in the context of the complex cross-currents of the Victorian age. 2. The representative texts will be analysed as part of a dynamic and shifting literary tradition by looking into emergent and declining narrative conventions within a wide spectrum of narrative voices and genres. 3. This will also include a study of the link between socio-political background and genres, how genres work and how texts conform or subvert conventions within their generic framework. 4. The texts have been chosen for both their intrinsic and representative merits so that in their totality they can reflect the cultural milieu that produced them.
LEARNING OUTCOME/S	<p>At the end of the course, the student will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Comprehend the complex intellectual, philosophical, scientific, and political undercurrents of the Victorian cultural milieu. 2. Analyse the texts in the context of the primary genres of the period as well as the background that produced them. 3. The division of the age into modules will enable the student to appreciate the texts as part of a larger evolutionary movement. 4. This will lead to a comprehensive understanding of the primary intellectual currents of the nineteenth century through its representative literary texts.
SYLLABUS	<p><u>MODULE 1 : BACKGROUND AND GENRES</u></p> <p><u>UNIT ONE: THE EARLY VICTORIANS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BACKGROUND – Carlyle’s Signs of the Times (1829), Darwin’s voyage on the HMS Beagle (1832-36), Oxford Movement (1833), Brunel’s crossing of the Atlantic (1838), Reform Act of 1832, Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834, Corn Laws (1846), Chartist uprisings (1848), Newman’s conversion, John Ruskin’s Modern Painters (1843) • GENRES – Historical novel, Silver-fork novel, Newgate novel, early and middle social problem novels, novels of identity, novels of manners/satire, novels of faith and doubt, historical writings.

	<p><u>UNIT TWO: HIGH VICTORIAN NOON</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BACKGROUND – Second Reform Act (1867) and Forster’s Education Act (1870), Darwin’s Origin of Species (1859), T.H. Huxley and Herbert Spencer, Utilitarianism, Aestheticism. • GENRES – Sensational novel, historical writings, school novels, fantasy and religious writings. <p><u>UNIT THREE: VICTORIAN TWILIGHT</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BACKGROUND – Walter Pater’s preface to The Renaissance, Late Victorian pessimism, Theosophical society, Urban poverty, Ironies of imperialism, the ‘scramble for Africa’. • GENRES – Slum school novel, the Romance, Utopian and religious writings, Science fiction and fantasy, New Realists. <p><u>MODULE 2: TEXTS</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Thomas Carlyle – On Heroes and Hero Worship (1841) (Selections) 2. William M. Thackeray – Vanity Fair (1847) 3. Charlotte Bronte – Jane Eyre (1847)/ Shirley (1849) 4. Emily Bronte – Wuthering Heights (1847) 5. Charles Dickens – Bleak House (1852) / Hard Times (1854) 6. Elizabeth Gaskell – North and South (1854) / Mary Barton (1848) 7. Matthew Arnold – Culture and Anarchy (1867-68) 8. Wilkie Collins – The Moonstone (1868) 9. George Eliot – Middlemarch (1871-72) / The Mill on the Floss (1860) 10. Anthony Trollope – The Way We Live Now (1875) 11. Thomas Hardy – Tess of the D’Urbervilles (1891)/ Jude the Obscure (1895) 12. George Gissing – New Grub Street (1891) 13. H.G. Wells – The War of the Worlds (1897) 14. Samuel Butler – The Way of All Flesh (published in 1903)
<p>READING LIST</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basil Willey: Nineteenth Century Studies • The Cambridge Companion to Victorian Culture: Francis O’Gorman ed • The Cambridge Companion to the Victorian Novel: Deirdre David ed. • The Victorian novel; modern essays in criticism: Ian Watt ed. • E.F. Benson: As We Were • G.M. Young: Portrait of an Age <p>(Additional material/list to be provided by the course instructor)</p>

SEMINARS/ PRESENTATIONS	
EVALUATION	End Semester examination paper format: 60 marks <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Module 1: Submission: Topic to be chosen from any of the three units – 20 marks• Module 2: Long answer – 3 X 20 = 60 marks• Internal assessment: Class test / Assignment (15+5)