



# Myths and Icons in Victorian Britain



Code Apogée  
2MIAM25



Composante(s)  
UFR Langues et  
Civilisations



Période de  
l'année  
Semestre 2

## En bref

- > **Mobilité d'études:** Oui
- > **Accessible à distance:** Non
- > **Effectif:** 15

## Présentation

### Description

'Victorian' qualifies a particular set of values, perception and experiences reflected in the literature and culture of the nineteenth century. In a collective act of interactional storytelling, the Victorians communicated their values and experiences through narratives supported by emblematic images, which purported to explain 'natural facts,' while they naturalized their ideological visions. To fully appreciate the depth of associations which enriches the understanding and appreciation of Victorian texts and objects, an analysis of the man-made myths they embody is required.

The focus of the seminar will be on identifying key images in the Victorian imagination and analyzing the process through which these figures became loaded with meaning.

Throughout this seminar, we will be asking how, in an age of growing class conflict, gender (re)definition, technological progress, and scientific enquiry, symbolic figures aggregated hypotheses emanating from various fields of interest. Oral presentations will be supported by visual material and will

explore the complexities and contradictions crystallized in iconic images considered in a Barthesian perspective as products of the Victorian cultural history.

### Contrôle des connaissances

Ce séminaire sera évalué sur un corpus constitué par les étudiants, qui servira de base à un travail écrit et une présentation orale pour les étudiants assidus. La moyenne des deux notes constituera la note finale.

Pour les étudiants dispensés d'assiduité, qui doivent prendre contact avec l'enseignante avant le début du séminaire : un travail écrit sera remis en fin de semestre.

### Informations complémentaires

Ouvert aux étudiant-es en mobilité sous réserve du nombre de places disponibles.

### Bibliographie

- \* AUERBACH, Nina. *Woman and the Demon: The Life of a Victorian Myth*, Harvard UP, 1982.
- \* DIJKSTRA, Bram. *Idols of Perversity: Fantasies of Feminine Evil in Fin-de-Siècle Culture*, Oxford Paperbacks, 1988.
- \* GALLAGHER Catherine & Stephen GREENBLATT, *Practicing New Historicism*, U. of Chicago Press, 2000.
- \* PICKSTONE, John. *Ways of Knowing*, Manchester UP, 2000.



\* WARNER, Marina. *Once Upon a Time: A Short History of Fairy Tale*, Oxford UP, 2014.