

# LANG 2039 THE SHORT STORY: NINETEENTH CENTURY WOMEN'S WRITING

**Credit Points** 10

**Legacy Code** 101964

**Coordinator** Anne Jamison ([https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Anne Jamison/](https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Anne%20Jamison/))

**Description** This subject will set Victorian women's writing in its historical, intellectual, publishing and cultural contexts, with particular emphasis on the multiple genres of writing within which women engaged in the nineteenth century. Using a broad range of short fiction, this subject will investigate topics such as gender and sexuality, colonialism and empire, and race and identity. It will also explore texts from across Australia, Britain, North America and Ireland and ask students to consider how these texts are still relevant to contemporary society and intellectual thinking.

**School** Humanities & Comm Arts

**Discipline** Literature

**Student Contribution Band** HECS Band 1 10cp

Check your fees via the Fees ([https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current\\_students/fees/](https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current_students/fees/)) page.

**Level** Undergraduate Level 2 subject

## Restrictions

Successful completion of 40 credit points of study in currently enrolled program.

## Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this subject, students should be able to:

1. Evaluate the intellectual and historical contexts that inform a range of nineteenth-century women's texts
2. Analyse a range of nineteenth-century women's texts and make connections between them
3. Summarise and evaluate literary-critical arguments relating to nineteenth-century women's writing.
4. Work effectively with other students on classroom team tasks
5. Participate effectively in the debate and sharing of complex ideas and concepts through high level oral, aural and language communication skills
6. Work independently to organise, plan and deliver a critically-informed research essay relating to nineteenth-century women's writing.

## Subject Content

1. British, Irish, North American and Australian nineteenth-century women's short fiction published during the nineteenth century.
2. The intellectual, cultural, critical and publishing contexts of nineteenth-century women's short fiction.
3. The intersections of gender, race and sexuality in women's nineteenth-century short fiction.
4. The multiple genres of women's short fiction in the nineteenth-century, e.g. sensation fiction, the gothic, didactic fiction.

5. Women's subversive engagement with key public debates of the period via the short story format.
6. The uncertainties of home, colonialism and empire in women's short fiction in the nineteenth century.
7. The relevance of women's nineteenth-century writing to contemporary society and intellectual thinking, as well as an examination of literature as a socialising force.
8. Representations of the changing social role of women in the nineteenth century.

## Assessment

The following table summarises the standard assessment tasks for this subject. Please note this is a guide only. Assessment tasks are regularly updated, where there is a difference your Learning Guide takes precedence.

| Type         | Length  | Percent | Threshold | Individual/<br>Group Task |
|--------------|---|---------|-----------|---------------------------|
| Short Answer | 750 words   | 35      | N         | Individual                |
| Portfolio    | Class participation is graded across each week of the teaching semester, and students are given 60 minutes to complete each online quiz | 20      | N         | Individual                |
| Essay        | 1,500 words   | 45      | N         | Individual                |

## Prescribed Texts

- The subject's prescribed primary texts vary from year to year subject to availability and the expertise of the teaching team, but they are consistently drawn from British, Irish, Australian and North American women's short fiction published during the nineteenth century. The current selection for the subject comprises:
- Maria Edgeworth, "The Limerick Gloves" (1804) Mary Shelley's "The Mortal Immortal" (1833) Elizabeth Gaskell's "The Grey Woman" (1863) Tasma's "Monsieur Caloche" (1878) Charlotte Perkins Gilman's "The Yellow Wallpaper" (1892)
- All prescribed readings for the subject are made available to students through the Subject Reader.