Queen Victoria, (1837-1901), reigned over a period that shaped the modern world. The values, ideas and industry of the Victorians made England the ‘workshop of the world’ and forged an Empire that spanned the globe. Science and Technology were thus central to Victorian society, although they were not viewed without ambivalence. In this course we will consider just a few aspects of Victorian science, its popularisation, professionalization as well as the social, cultural and political significance.

Course Formalities and Expectations

Attendance and Participation:
Attendance in class is mandatory. If you have good cause to miss class, it is imperative that you discuss this with your instructor BEFOREHAND.

OU policies on reasonable accommodation, and codes of behaviour:
Reasonable Accommodation Policy
Any student in this course who has a documented disability that may prevent him or her from fully demonstrating his or her abilities should contact me personally as soon as possible so we can discuss accommodations necessary to ensure full participation and facilitate your educational opportunities.

OU operates an equal opportunities policy. For information on Disability Resources and Policy see: The Disability Resource Centre web site: http://drc.ou.edu/

Codes and Policies of Behaviour
Each student should acquaint his or her self with the University's codes, policies, and procedures involving academic misconduct, grievances, sexual, racial and ethnic harassment, and discrimination based on physical handicap.

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism:
Plagiarism is the unacknowledged appropriation of someone else’s words, ideas, or work, which is then represented as your own. It will not be tolerated and carries significant and serious penalties. At a minimum you will receive 0% for the assignment, and your name put on record. It is possible that you might receive 0% for the course, and in extreme cases may be expelled from the University. You are therefore strongly recommended to educate yourself regarding what plagiarism is and how to avoid it. Your instructor and/or teaching assistants will be happy to advise you on this matter if you are in any doubt.

We will talk more about academic conventions, referencing the authors you write about and what constitutes adequate citation in class. All written work for this class will be expected to meet these basic standards of academic integrity.

OU Policy regarding religious holidays:
It is the policy of the University to excuse absences of students that result from religious observances and to provide without penalty for the rescheduling of examinations and additional required class work that may fall on religious holidays.
ASSESSMENT

- **First essay** (1500 words): [15%]
- **Second essay** (1500 words): [15%]
- **Third Essay** (5000 words): [45%]
- **Participation:** [25%]

- **TOTAL** [100%]

Students will be asked to write two short essays, each of approximately 1500 words, on a topic of their choice. Each essay should draw from literature we have read in class. You should discuss the topics with your instructor before you begin.

You may substitute one of these essays with an alternative project, such as an interactive webpage, video, exhibition plan or equivalent.

Students should develop the third essay (5000 words) from material taken from the course, but in addition it should also reflect a significant element of independent research. Please discuss your topic with your instructor before you begin.
Class schedule

Week one (21st August): Class introductions.

Week two (28th August): Meeting the Victorians.
Reading:


Week three (4th September): Philosophy of Science
Reading:


Week four (11th September): Professionalisation: Making the ‘Man of Science’
Reading:


Week five (18th September): Science at the Margins: Phrenology, Mesmerism and Spiritualism.
Reading:

**Week six (25th September): Popularisation of science**

Reading:


**Week seven (2nd October): Science in the Victorian Periodical.**

Reading:


**Week eight (9th October): Science on Display**

Reading:

- James Secord, Victorian Sensation,

**Week nine (16th October): Science, Race and Empire.**

Reading:


**Week ten (23rd October): Evangelicalism and science.**

Reading:


**Week eleven (30th October): The Science of Sex in Victorian England**

Reading:


**Week twelve (6th November): The Politics of Evolution.**

Reading:


**Week thirteen (13th November): Student presentation and discussion of projects**

**Week fourteen (20th November): No class, History of Science Society meeting.**

**Week fifteen (27th November): No class, American Thanks Giving break.**

**Week sixteen (4th December):**

Term paper due and final discussion.