Semester II (Soft Core 3)

ENS 456: VICTORIAN PROSE

- Credits: 4 (3 Lectures and 1 Tutorial per Week)
- Examination: End-semester examination: 70 Marks; Internal Assessment: 30 Marks)
- Internal Assessment: Class presentation, Monthly Test, Seminar—separately or in combination)

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

The course seeks to introduce students to:

- Victorian prose, through the major texts of the period
- Cultural problems of the period and how they were negotiated by the major writers.
- Detailed analysis of the major prose texts of Victorian Literature
- Comparative analysis and evaluation of the texts prescribed for study

COURSE OUTCOME:

- The student will acquire a broad knowledge of the Victorian prose and the cultural and literary aspects in them. The student will recognize and remember the major names of the prose writers of this period
- In analysing the prose texts of this period, student will comprehend the cultural problems of the period and understand them historically. The student will understand how these cultural problems are interrelated and define a period or a movement.
- The student will interpret the prose texts prescribed in the syllabus in terms of the cultural and ideological issues enumerated in para 2. The student will learn to locate, recognize these issues in the texts prescribed for study.
- Students are encouraged to analyse their own cultural/existential situations in terms of the science X culture or industrialization X culture themes that they have learned. In doing so they will learn the difference between the occidental and oriental cultures.
- Students will try to synthesize universal/narrative analytical models from out of the Victorian culture and examine whether such universals help them understand their own situations. Elements of postcolonialism/orientalism may be introduced here.
- Students will evaluate similar cultural/literary passages from their cultures and see how best they can respond to them.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
MANGALORE UNIVERSITY
New CBCS MA SYLLABUS
(Passed in 20, January 2020 BoS, effective from 2020)

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Section A: Background

Science and Technology in Victorian England
Loss of Religion and High Morality
The Ethos of Isolation, Despair and Pessimism
Utilitarianism, Culture and Literature
Victorian Subjectivity and Social Awareness

Section B: Prose

Carlyle: Signs of the Time

Ruskin: Unto this Last

Macaulay: Bacon (in *Critical and Historical Essays—Vol.II*,

Arnold: Culture and Anarchy ("Sweetness and Light" and *Porro Unum est Necessarium*)

References:

1. *Cambridge History of English Literature*
2. Chew, Samuel C., and Richard Altick, *A literary history of England, Vol. 4, The Nineteenth Century and After (1789-1939)*, London, Routledge and Kegan, 1967.
3. Briggs, Asa., *Victorian People—A Reassessment of Persons and Themes: 1851-67*, The University of Chicago Press, Chicago, 1955 (or subsequent edition)
4. Williams, Raymond, *Culture and Society*, Houghton, Waltenr, E., *The Victorian Frame of Mind*, Yale University Press, 1957.
5. Houghton, Walter, E., *The Victorian Frame of Mind*, Yale University Press, 1957.
6. Carlyle, *Signs of the Time* (any standard edition
7. Ruskin, *Unto This Last* (any standard edition)
8. Macaulay, *Critical and Historical Essays*, (any standard Edition)

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