

A painting depicting a scene from a medieval story. A knight in full plate armor, including a helmet and gauntlets, is kneeling on the ground. He is looking up at a woman who is seated on a dark horse. The woman is wearing a long, flowing red dress with a white collar and a white headpiece. She is holding the reins of the horse. The background shows a landscape with rolling hills and a sunset or sunrise sky. The overall style is characteristic of Victorian-era art.

ENL 4210 Victorian Medievalism
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Fulfills requirements
in Early and Late Literature

The term “Victorian medievalism” encompasses the pervasive reproduction and reinvention of medieval literature, themes, and ideals in the nineteenth century. The diversity of medievalism’s uses in Victorian culture led to its expression through a wide variety of media. Victorian medievalism emerged in many generic forms, including poetry, prose, retellings of folk legends, paintings, cartoons, statues, and the architecture of the Gothic Revival. Likewise, Victorian writers engaged with many aspects of the Middle Ages, including chivalry, the Crusades, the Vikings (whose modern image draws heavily on Victorian reinterpretations), Robin Hood ballads, and legends of King Arthur. In this course, we will explore Victorian literature and art in parallel with the medieval texts it sought to emulate.