

Course Name: Fin de Siècle: Decadence and Sexual Anarchy

Instructor: Yi-Chuang E. Lin

Credit 3 Thursday 2:00~5:00

Required Reading:

The Decay of Lying by Oscar Wilde  
The Picture of Dorian Gray by Oscar Wilde  
The Critic as Artist by Oscar Wilde  
The Turn of the Screw by Henry James  
The Portrait of a Lady by Henry James  
Culture and Anarchy by Matthew Arnold

Additional Materials:

Sexual Anarchy by Elaine Showalter  
The Female Malady by Elaine Showalter  
The History of Sexuality by Michael Foucault  
The Introductory Lectures to Psychoanalysis by Sigmund Freud

Weekly Schedule:

9/14 Introduction

The Late Victorian Age  
The Decline of Empire  
The Fear of Degeneration  
Race, Class, Sex

“Late Victorian science, especially the new science of physical anthropology, devoted itself to establishing the legitimacy of racial differentiation and hierarchy, and to demonstrating the ‘degenerations that threatened when these boundaries were transgressed’” (Showalter5)

Culture and Anarchy by Matthew Arnold  
We “Other Victorians” by Michael Foucault

Movie: *The Importance of Being Earnest*

9/21 Fin de Siècle and Decadence

Suffrages and male identity crisis  
The Trial of Oscar Wilde

*The Critic as Artist* by Oscar Wilde

10/5 *The Decay of Lying* by Oscar Wilde  
Wilde and Henry James

10/12 Marriage, Nervous Women, Gender Identity, Female Sexuality  
Married Women Property Act 1882  
Hysteria and Male Borderline

*The Turn of the Screw & The Portrait of a Lady*  
by Henry James

10/19 Passion, Beauty, Theory and Real Life

*The Portrait of a Lady* by Henry James

10/26 Aesthetes

*The Portrait of a Lady* by Henry James

11/2 Homosexuality  
“The Object of Pleasure” by Michael Foucault

11/9 Midterm

11/16 Symbolism, Apollonian Imagery  
Life and Art  
*The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde

11/23 Freud, Introductory Lectures to Psychoanalysis  
*The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde

- 11/30 Gothic and The Uncanny  
*The Turn of the Screw* by Henry James
- 12/7 *The Turn of the Screw* by Henry James
- 12/14 Socialism, Capitalism and Aesthetic Culture  
Mass Production and Craftsmanship  
The Utopian Discourse
- “The Soul of Man under Socialism” by Oscar Wilde  
*Major Barbara* by George Bernard Shaw
- 12/21 *The Island of Dr. Moreau* by H. G. Wells
- 12/28 Clubland and Male Society  
*The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*
- 1/4 Movie: *A Doll's House*
- 1/11 Final

Grading: Midterm 30% Final 30% Presentation 20%  
Attendance and Contribution 20%