

Course Name: Fin de Siècle: Decadence and Sexual Anarchy

Credit: 3

Course Hours: Thursday 3:30~6:10

Grading: Midterm Paper 30% Final Paper 30%
 Reflections 10% Attendance and Participation 30%

Required Reading:

The Decay of Lying by Oscar Wilde
The Picture of Dorian Gray by Oscar Wilde
The Critics as Artist by Oscar Wilde
The Portrait of a Lady by Henry James

Additional Reading:

We “Other Victorians” by Michel Foucault
Paris, the Capital of 19th Century, Walter Benjamin
“The Uncanny” by Sigmund Freud

AI usage: Please do not use any large language models and generative AI to write your midterm or final paper. You may simply use it to collect information or give you a kick start.

Plagiarism is not tolerated in this class

Course Schedule:

9/14 Introduction
 Fin de Siècle and Decadence Art for Art’s Sakes
 The Late Victorian Age The Decline of Empire
 The Fear of Degeneration

9/21 *The Critic as Artist* by Oscar Wilde

10/5 The Dandy and *Flâneur*
 Baudelaire
 Walter Benjamin

The Picture of Dorian Gray

10/12	<i>The Picture of Dorian Gray</i>	Reflection Paper due
10/19	Aesthetes <i>The Decay of Lying</i> by Oscar Wilde	
10/26	<i>The Decay of Lying</i> by Oscar Wilde	
11/2	<i>The Decay of Lying</i> by Oscar Wilde	
11/9	Midterm paper due	
11/16	Sexuality, Gender performativity, Nervous Women (Madwomen) Married Women Property Act 1882	
	The Turn of the Screw by Henry James	
11/23	Art and Life <i>The Portrait of a Lady</i> by Henry James	
11/30	<i>The Portrait of a Lady</i> by Henry James	Reflection paper due
12/7	<i>The Portrait of a Lady</i> by Henry James	
12/14	Gothic and the Uncanny (Paranoia, Neurosis, Psychosis) “The Uncanny” by Sigmund Freud	
12/21	Movie: <i>An Ideal Husband</i>	
12/28	Final Essay Due	