COURSE DETAIL

LITERATURE OF THE FIN DE SIECLE

Country
United Kingdom - England

Host Institution
University of London, Royal Holloway

Program(s)
University of London, Royal Holloway

UCEAP Course Level
Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)
English

UCEAP Course Number
144

UCEAP Course Suffix
N

UCEAP Official Title
LITERATURE OF THE FIN DE SIECLE

UCEAP Transcript Title
LIT / FIN DE SIECLE

UCEAP Quarter Units
6.00

UCEAP Semester Units

4.00

Course Description
This course examines the "dark" side of late Victorian and Edwardian literature. It provides an appropriate cultural history for the literature of the fin de siècle, exploring a wide range of topics: fears of over-civilization and diagnoses of neurasthenia in the upper classes, a psychology that divides the mind into upper and lower (primitive) layers, a psychopathology describing deviant sexualities and states of hysteria, the emergence of "the new woman," occultism and spiritualism, drug abuse, fears of contagion and disease, and ideas of apocalypse at the turn of the century. The course moves from cultural symptoms diagnosed by theorists of decline to the solution often proposed by writers concerned with Empire (and, in America, with the Frontier): a masculine regeneration sustained by travel, adventure, and heroic struggle. Debates about "new" and "fallen" women are considered within the context of late Victorian sexual politics. Lectures and seminars also address the interests of the Rhymers' Club, the poetic coevals of the decadent novelists, preoccupied with the "literature of failure."

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number
EN2309

Host Institution Course Title
LITERATURE OF THE FIN DE SIECLE

Host Institution Course Details
https://ssb-prod.ec.royalholloway.ac.uk/PROD/bwckctlg.p_disp_catalog_syllabus?c...

Host Institution Campus
Royal Holloway, University of London

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department
English

Course Last Reviewed
2023-2024

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