

# 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 Campus**

Royal Holloway, University of London

### **Host Institution Faculty**

### **Host Institution Degree**

### **Host Institution Department**

English

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