

COURSE DETAIL

CULTURAL ANXIETIES IN LATE VICTORIAN NOVELS

Country

Germany

Host Institution

Humboldt University Berlin

Program(s)

Humboldt University Berlin

UCEAP Course Level

Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)

English

UCEAP Course Number

140

UCEAP Course Suffix**UCEAP Official Title**

CULTURAL ANXIETIES IN LATE VICTORIAN NOVELS

UCEAP Transcript Title

ANXIETIES VICT NOVL

UCEAP Quarter Units

4.50

UCEAP Semester Units

3.00

Course Description

At the end of the 19th century, Britain was in many ways at the pinnacle of its power, having established global supremacy thanks to advances in industrialization and its vast colonial empire. However, cultural texts from the period project a number of profound anxieties about deviancy, degeneracy, decadence, and indistinct threats from adversaries both at home and abroad. Sociopolitical reasons for these uncertainties include the suffragette movement, socialist and anarchist action, campaigns for national self-determination in the form of e.g. Irish Republicanism or the Indian National Congress, as well as geopolitical tensions and technological changes. In this class, we examine narratives that represent, respond to, and process late Victorian cultural anxieties with a particular view to the violence that results from perceived threats to cultural hegemony. We situate a number of late Victorian novels in relation to emergent contemporary concepts such as (social) Darwinism, the unconscious, and (homo)sexuality, exploring how these concepts both shaped and were shaped by cultural anxiety. Additionally, we adopt frameworks from more recent theoretical approaches such as postcolonial and trans*queer studies to understand how cultural anxieties negotiate the boundaries between normative structures and their Other. Primary texts include Oscar Wilde: *Lord Arthur Savile's Crime and Other Stories*, 1891, Florence Marryat: *The Blood of the Vampire*, 1897, Joseph Conrad: *Heart of Darkness*, 1899.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number

5250072

Host Institution Course Title

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Host Institution Course Details

<https://agnes.hu-berlin.de/lupo/rds?state=verpublish&status=init&vmfile=no&publ...>

Host Institution Campus

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department

Institut für Anglistik und Amerikanistik

Course Last Reviewed

2023-2024

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