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

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Host Institution Course Details
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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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