

Department of English & Writing Studies  
**Seminar in Nineteenth-Century Literature**  
**Pre-Raphaelites: Romanticism to Modernism**  
**English 4350G (001)**  
Winter 2023

**Instructor:** Professor D.M.R. Bentley  
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UC 2424

**Course Location:** UC 4401

**Course Day/Time:** Mondays 12.30-3.30 pm

Office Hours: Tuesday, 1.00-2.00; Thursday  
1.00-3.00; Other times by chance or  
appointment

**Antirequisites:** English 3359F-001 (Fall/Winter 2020-21) and English 3369F (Fall/Winter 2017-18)

**Aims and Intended Outcomes:**

The principal aims and intended outcomes of the course are: (1) to give students an overview of the Pre-Raphaelite movement in literature and art, with some attention to its impact on writers and artists in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries; (2) to introduce them to a variety of historical perspectives and critical approaches; (3) to help them to strengthen their writing and research skills and to apply them to the study of literature and art; and last, but not least, (4) to enable them to deepen their understanding, appreciation, and enjoyment of literature and art.

Course Materials

Unless otherwise indicated, all texts are in Rossetti's *Collected Poetry and Prose* edited by Jerome McGann. Well before each seminar, links to pictures that will be discussed in that seminar will be e-mailed to you through OWL. Please have the pictures available for examination in detail on paper or your laptop/tablet. Not all the poems listed under a given date in the syllabus will be examined with the same degree of closeness, but they will be given prominence if they are selected by one or more members of the seminar as the focus of a short essay (see below re. assignments). Members of the seminar are encouraged to range widely in Rossetti's work, both literary and artistic, and to incorporate their findings and insights into our discussions. Owing to the overlaps between and among different strains of Rossetti's later work, the readings for March 13 and later provide for considerable flexibility.

Methods of Evaluation

Two short essays, one research essay, and a preliminary bibliography for the research essay are required. The short essays (500-750 words) will be on a work or works of your choice by Dante Gabriel Rossetti, and should focus on and "unpack" an aspect or detail of the work(s) that you regard as significant and worthy of commentary. At least one of the short essays must be submitted before or on February 6, and the second before or on March 6. The preliminary bibliography must be submitted before or on March 27 (You are encouraged to submit your bibliography and short essays well before these deadlines, which, like objects in a rearview mirror, are closer than they appear.) The research essay (2000-2,500 words, plus Works Cited) may emerge from one of the short essays or focus on an author or artist other than Rossetti. It may be submitted at any time after April 3, and **no later than a week after the last seminar, which is on April 10.**

**Policy on Late Essays:**

Anyone who has a valid reason for not meeting an essay deadline must give me that reason before the due date and arrange for an extension. Otherwise, late essays will be penalized at a rate of 2% a day to a maximum of 10 days, including weekends, after which they may not be accepted.

**Mark Distribution:**

The brief essays will be worth 15% each and the research essay 40%, with the remaining 30% based on the bibliography (15%) and attendance/participation (15%).

**Required Statement on Academic Offences:**

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_grad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf)

**Academic Rights and Responsibilities:**

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/academic\\_policies/rights\\_responsibilities.html](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/academic_policies/rights_responsibilities.html)

**Mental Health:**

“Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western [http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental\\_health/](http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental_health/) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.”

Seminar Schedule and Readings

**January 16 Preamble**

**January 23 Introduction**

Readings: Pugin, Collinson, Stephens, Ruskin (handouts)

**January 30 Introduction**

Readings: “Mary’s Girlhood (For a Picture)”

**February 6 Marian Paintings and Poems**

Readings: “Fili Filia,” “Mary’s Girlhood (For a Picture),” “For a Virgin and Child by Hans Memmelink,” “For a Marriage of St. Catherine by the Same,” “Ave,” “The Passover of the Holy Family (For a Drawing),” “Sudden Light,” “For ‘Our Lady of the Rocks ’by Leonardo da Vinci”

**February 13 Pre-Raphaelite Manifestos**

Readings: “Old and New Art,” “Hand and Soul”

**February 20 NO SEMINAR: READING WEEK**

**February 27 Early Longer Poems**

Readings: “My Sister’s Sleep,” “The Blessed Damozel,” “A Last Confession,” “The Staff and Scrip”

**March 6 The “Fallen Woman”**

Readings: “The Honeysuckle,” “Found (For a Picture),” “Mary Magdalene at the Door of Simon the Pharisee (For a Drawing),” “Jenny”

**March 13 The *Femme Fatale***

Readings: “The Card-Dealer,” “Troy Town,” “Body’s Beauty,” “Eden Bower,” “The Orchard Pit” (both prose and poem), “Pandora (For a Picture),” “Lilith. From Goethe,” “For ‘The Wine of Circe ’by Edward Burne-Jones”

**March 20**                    **The *Femme Fatale*/Aestheticism**

Readings: See March 13; “The Woodspurge,” “The Landmark,” “The Hill Summit,” “Beauty and the Bird” (handout), “The Song of the Bower,” “After the French Liberation of Italy” (handout)

**March 27**                    **Aestheticism, Symbolism**

Readings: See March 13 and 20; “Venus Verticordia (For a Picture),” “The Soul’s Sphere,” “Inclusiveness,”

**April 3**                    **Final Work**

Readings: “Cloud Confines,” “Love Enthroned,” “Hope Overtaken,” “The One Hope,” “Proserpina (For a Picture),” “Astarte Syriaca (For a Picture),” “La Bella Mano (For a Picture),” “The Question” (For a Design)” (handout)

**April 10**                    **Modernism**

Readings: Texts by Wilde, Yeats, Pound, Eliot, and others (handouts)