

## Summer 2019

### AP/EN 4581 3.0M (S2)

### *Decadence*

**Course Director:**

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**Delivery Format:**

Seminar

**Time:**

Tuesday and Thursday, 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm

**Description:**

In this intensive course, we will explore the Decadent movement of the late nineteenth century and its associations with sensuality, artificiality, moral degeneration, and “art for art’s sake.” We will study the British writers’ debts to French Symbolism and Gothicism, the influence of the “fleshy school” of poets, Walter Pater’s theorization of aestheticism, and the decadentism and dandyism of Oscar Wilde. Course topics include the Decadent writers’ provocative interrogation of gender, the role of the Decadent press (especially the scandalous fin-de-siècle journal, *The Yellow Book*), and the assaults of anti-Decadent criticism and parody. By the end of the term, students will be familiar with the principal figures of British Decadence and the features and contexts of their writings.

**Category:**

C

**Historical Requirement:**

Time Period II

**Requirements:**

Seminar Presentation	25%
Research Essay (7-8 pages)	35%
Final Test	25%
Participation including Reading Responses	15%

**Reading List:**

Paul Negri, ed., *English Victorian Poetry* (Dover)  
Walter Pater, *The Renaissance* (Oxford World’s Classics)  
Elaine Showalter, ed., *Daughters of Decadence: Women Writers of the Fin-de-Siècle* (Rutgers UP)  
Oscar Wilde, *Salome* (Dover)  
—, *The Picture of Dorian Gray* (Oxford World’s Classics)  
W. S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan, *Patience* (Internet)

A course kit containing additional short readings (essays, poems, parodies) will be available for purchase at the university bookstore in York Lanes.

**Open To:**

Year 4 Honours