

Neville Hoad
E379N
Parlin 215
Office Hours: TTH11-1
Spring 2010

Oscar Wilde

In this class we will read almost all of the published oeuvre of the Anglo-Irish writer, Oscar Wilde: all his plays, critical essays and children's stories, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, selected journalism and letters. We will also take advantage of the Oscar Wilde holdings at the Harry Ransom Center. We will also read Richard Ellmann's definitive biography of Wilde. The course will contextualize Wilde's life and work in terms of British aestheticism, Irish nationalism, the relationship between celebrity and the emergence of mass-culture and the place of Wilde in the imagining of modern homosexual identity.

Grading Policy

Attendance and class participation are mandatory. More than 2 unexcused absences will result in grade penalties.

2 short response papers: 4 pages each 20%
1 in-class presentation and participation in class discussion 30%
Final research paper 12-15 pages 50%

Drafts of the final research paper will be extensively workshopped in class

Texts

Oscar Wilde, *Complete Works*
Richard Ellmann, *Oscar Wilde*
Reading packet*

Schedule;

1/19: Intro
1/21: Ellmann: I-X

1/26: Ellmann: X1-XV1
1/28: Ellmann: XVII – Epilogue

2/2: Brian Gilbert's Wilde (film screening)
2/4: film discussion

2/9: Edwards*, Selected letters*

2/11: Ruskin*, Pater*

2/16: Stories in *A House of Pomegranates*

2/18: Stories in *The Happy Prince*

first reading response paper due

2/23: The Portrait of Mr. W.H; Pen, Pencil and Poison

2/25: The Decay of Lying

3/2: The Critic as Artist

3/4: No class

3/9: The Soul of Man Under Socialism

3/11: The Soul of Man Under Socialism

SPRING BREAK

3/23: *The Picture of Dorian Gray*

3/25: *The Picture of Dorian Gray*

second reading response paper due

3/30: Salome

4/1: No class

4/6: Salome

4/8: De Profundis

4/13: De Profundis

4/15: Final paper abstract workshop

4/20: An Ideal Husband

4/22: A Woman of No Importance

4/27: Current Wilde Criticism: Nunokawa*, Sinfield*, Hovey*

4/29: paper workshop

5/4: Lady Windermere's Fan

5/6: The Importance of Being Earnest

final paper due