

**Western University
London Canada
Department of English**

2020

D.M.R. Bentley

**English 3359F & Arts and Humanities 3393F: The Pre-Raphaelites
Mondays 2.30-3.30; Wednesdays 2.30-4.30**

Instructor: Professor D.M.R. Bentley; **Teaching Assistant:** Blake Robertson
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Office Hours: Tuesday, 1.00-2.00; Thursday 1.00-3.00; Other Times by Chance or Appointment.

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. 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 November 9 and following provide for considerable flexibility.

Seminar Schedule and Readings:

September 9 **Preamble**

September 14 & 16 **Introduction**

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

September 21 & 23 **Introduction**

Readings: "Mary's Girlhood (For a Picture)"

September 28 & 30 **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"

October 5 & 7 **Pre-Raphaelite Manifestos**

Readings: "Old and New Art," "Hand and Soul"

October 12 **THANKSGIVING**

October 14 **Dantean Works**

Readings: *The New Life* (selections), "Dante at Verona"

October 19 & 21 **Early Poems**

Readings: "My Sister's Sleep," "The Blessed Damozel," "A Last Confession," "The Bride's Prelude"

October 26 & 28 **The "Fallen Woman"**

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

October 30 to November 8 **FALL READING WEEK**

November 9 & 11 **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"

November 16 & 18 **The *Femme Fatale*/Aestheticism**

Readings: See November 7; "The Woodspurge," "The Landmark," "The Hill Summit," "Beauty and the Bird" (handout), "The Song of the Bower," "After the French Liberation of Italy" (handout)

November 23 & 25 **Aestheticism, Symbolism**

Readings: See November 7 and 14; "Venus Verticordia (For a Picture)," "The Soul's Sphere," "Inclusiveness,"

Nov. 30 & Dec. 2 **Final Work**

Readings: "The 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)

December 7 & 9 **Modernism**

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

Final Examination: Take-home during the examination period.

Assignments:

Two short essays and one longer essay are required. The short essays (500-750 words) will be on works of your choice by Dante Gabriel Rossetti, and should focus on and "unpack" an aspect or detail of the works that you regard as significant and worthy of commentary. At least one of the short essays must be submitted before or on October 9, and the second

before or on November 13. (You are encouraged to submit your short essays well before these deadlines, which, like objects in a rearview mirror, are closer than they appear.) The longer 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 November 10, and **no later than a week after the last seminar, which is on December 9.**

Policy on Late Essays:

Anyone who has a valid reason for not meeting an essay deadline must give the instructor 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 5 days, including weekends, after which they may not be accepted without accommodation through the Dean's office.

Mark Distribution:

The brief essays will be worth 15% each and the final essay 40%, with the remaining 30% based on the final examination (20%) and attendance/participation (10%).

Zoom Information:

Blake Robertson is inviting you to scheduled Zoom meetings. Lectures start at 2.30 on Mondays and Wednesdays, so please plan to request access to the meetings 10 to 15 minutes before that. If you try to enter a meeting before I have started the session, you will receive a message asking you to wait. Once I have started the session, you will automatically be put into the waiting room.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://westernuniversity.zoom.us/j/94985819849?pwd=ZlI2b3kzTUEzZ0gxVmp1VXZYOWh2dz09>

Meeting ID: 949 8581 9849
Passcode: 060987

One tap mobile
+19292056099,,94985819849# US (New York)
+16699006833,,94985819849# US (San Jose)

Dial by your location
+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)
+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
+1 647 558 0588 Canada

Meeting ID: 949 8581 9849

Find your local number: <https://westernuniversity.zoom.us/u/abw8Ip2Iap>

Join by SIP
94985819849@zoomcrc.com

Join by H.323
162.255.37.11 (US West)
162.255.36.11 (US East)
69.174.57.160 (Canada)
Meeting ID: 949 8581 9849

Passcode: 060987

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

Academic Rights and Responsibilities:

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/ for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.”

Academic Consideration for Student Absence:

Students will have up to two (2) opportunities during the regular academic year to use an on-line portal to self-report an absence during the term, provided the following conditions are met: the absence is no more than 48 hours in duration, and the assessment for which consideration is being sought is worth 30% or less of the student’s final grade. Students are expected to contact their instructors within 24 hours of the end of the period of the self-reported absence, unless noted on the syllabus. Students are not able to use the self-reporting option in the following circumstances:

- for exams scheduled by the Office of the Registrar (e.g., December and April exams)
- absence of a duration greater than 48 hours,
- assessments worth more than 30% of the student’s final grade,
- if a student has already used the self-reporting portal twice during the academic year

If the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence are *not* met, students will need to provide a Student Medical Certificate if the absence is medical, or provide appropriate documentation if there are compassionate grounds for the absence in question. Students are encouraged to

contact their Faculty academic counselling office to obtain more information about the relevant documentation.

Students should also note that individual instructors are not permitted to receive documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for consideration on medical grounds, or for other reasons. **All documentation required for absences that are not covered by the Self-Reported Absence Policy must be submitted to the Academic Counselling office of a student's Home Faculty.**

For Western University policy on Consideration for Student Absence, see:

[Policy on Academic Consideration for Student Absences - Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs](#)

For the downloadable **Student Medical Certificate (SMC)**, see:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf

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 students to a variety of historical perspectives and critical approaches; (3) to help students to strengthen their writing and research skills and to apply them to the study of literature and art; and last, but by no means least, (4) to enable students to deepen their understanding, appreciation, and enjoyment of literature and art.