

2018

Western University  
London Canada  
Department of English

D.M.R. Bentley

**English 9164A: The Pre-Raphaelites**  
**University College 4415, Wednesdays 3.30-6.30**

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

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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 bring a laptop or other device to seminar so that you will 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 7 and following provide for considerable flexibility.

**Seminar Schedule and Readings:**

**September 12**                      **Preamble**

**September 19**                      **Introduction**

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

**September 26**                      **Introduction**

"Mary's Girlhood (For a Picture)"

**October 3**                              **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 10**                              **NO SEMINAR (FALL READING WEEK)**

**October 17**                              **Pre-Raphaelite Manifestos**

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

**October 24**

**Early Poems**

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

**October 31**

**The "Fallen Woman"**

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

**November 7**

**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 14**

**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 21**

**Aestheticism, Symbolism**

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

**November 28**

**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 5**

**Modernism**

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

**Final Examination:** Time, place, and format to be determined.

**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 12, and the second before or on November 9. (You are encouraged to submit your short essays well before these deadlines, which, like objects in a rearview mirror, are closer than they appear.) Both must be handed in no later than 4.00 p.m. on the Friday preceding the seminar on the work(s) with which they deal so that their substance can be assured a place in the group's discussion. 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 5.

### **Policy on Late Essays:**

Anyone who has a valid reason for not meeting an essay deadline must give me his/her 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 final essay 40%, with the remaining 30% based on attendance and participation (10%) and the final examination (20%).

### **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)

### **Graduate Student Health and Wellness:**

As part of a successful graduate student experience at Western, we encourage students to make their health and wellness a priority. Western provides several on campus health-related services to help you achieve optimum health and engage in healthy living while pursuing your graduate degree. For example, to support physical activity, all students, as part of their registration, receive membership in Western's Campus Recreation Centre. Numerous cultural events are offered throughout the year; for example, please check out the Faculty of Music web page <http://www.music.uwo.ca/>, and our own McIntosh Gallery <http://www.mcintoshgallery.ca/>. Information regarding health- and wellness-related services available to students may be found at <http://www.health.uwo.ca/>. Students seeking help regarding mental health concerns are advised to speak to someone they feel comfortable confiding in, such as their faculty supervisor, their program director (graduate chair), or other relevant administrators in their unit. Campus mental health resources may be found at [http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental\\_health/resources.html](http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental_health/resources.html).