**English 9098A—Before and After Sexuality**

**Th. 12:30-3:30**

Matthew Rowlinson, UC 265

mrowlins@uwo.ca
Office Hours: Wed 10-12; Th. 9-10 and by appt.

**Course Description:**

This course will concentrate on the nineteenth century, when the configuration of social relations between men underwent a drastic reconfiguration with the appearance of legal and medical discourses of perversion that constituted the homosexual. To work out what changed in the nineteenth century, though, the course will begin by studying two pre-modern texts whose nineteenth-century reception was an important site of contention in the discursive invention of homosexuality. Some theoretical and historical works will also be studied. The ways in which nineteenth century concepts of perversion were embodied in specific forms of literary work will be a sustained question in the course

.

**Required Books:**

Plato, *The Symposium* trans. Robin Waterfield. Oxford World Classics, ISBN 0199540195

Shakespeare, *Sonnets*, ed. Steven Orgel, Pelican ISBN 0140714537

Tennyson, *In Memoriam*. Handout.

Pater, *The Renaissance*, ed. Beaumont. Oxford World Classics. ISBN 0199535078

Oscar Wilde, *The Soul of Man under Socialism*, ed. Linda Dowling. Penguin ISBN 0140433872

Michel Foucault, *The History of Sexuality,* vol 1, Vintage, ISBN 0679724699

**Recommended** **Books**:

D. G Rossetti, *Collected Prose and Poetry*. Ed. Jerome McGann. Yale UP 0300098022

*Michael Field, The Poet* ed. Thain and Vadillo. Broadview, ISBN 1551116758

David Halperin, *One Hundred Years of Homosexuality* . Routledge, ISBN 0415900972

**Schedule**:

**Week 1** **Sept 12:** Introduction

**Week 2 Sept . 19:** Plato, *Symposium*

**Week 3 Sept. 26**: Plato, *Symposium.* David Halperin*,* “One Hundred Years of Homosexuality,” Lacan, from *The Four Fundamental Concepts of Psychoanalysis*.

**Week 4 Oct. 3:** Shakespeare, *Sonnets*

**Week 5 Oct. 10:** Shakespeare, *Sonnets.* EveSedgwick, from *Between Men*, Richard Halperin, from *Shakespeare’s Perfume*

**Week 6 Oct. 17:** Stallybrass “Editing as Cultural Formation: The Sexing of Shakespeare’s Sonnets*,*”Tennyson, *In Memoriam*.

**Week 7 Oct. 24:** *In Memoriam*

**Week 8 Nov 7:**Foucault *The History of Sexuality* vol. 1

**Week 9 Nov. 14:** Pater *The Renaissance*

**Week 10 Nov. 21:** D. G.Rossetti *The House of Life*. <http://www.rossettiarchive.org/docs/1-1870.1stedn.rad.html#p204>

**Week 11 Nov 28:** From Michael Field, *Long Ago*;Wilde “The Portrait of Mr. W.H.”

**Week 12 Dec 5:** Wilde “The Critic as Artist,” “The Decay of Lying.”

**Assignments**:

-- A 5000 word paper on a topic of your choice will be due one week after our last meeting, on Dec. 12; please choose your topic as early as possible in consultation with me. You may if you wish submit a formal description of your paper topic any time up to November 21 and I will return it with comments. The finished paper is to be submitted as if for publication, with full scholarly apparatus in accordance with either the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* or the *Chicago Manual of Style*.

--Once during the term each of you will give a presentation in which you will introduce a topic to be discussed in that day’s seminar. You may if you wish work on these in groups of two; if you wish to do so, please choose a partner during the first two weeks of class, and in any case notify me as soon as possible of your preferred presentation date. Please discuss your topic with me well in advance of the presentation date. During the presentation, I expect you to speak for a total of about 15 minutes and to lead a discussion arising from your spoken remarks. If you are working with a partner, you may choose to present your ideas in the form of a dialogue, or successively.

--A 1200-1500-word paper on an assigned topic, to be submitted October 10.

--Throughout the term, and above all, read the material assigned on the syllabus and come to class prepared to discuss it, and to ask and answer questions about it.

**Evaluation**:--45% of your overall grade will be determined by the final paper.

--20% of your grade will be determined by the first paper.

--20 % of your grade will be determined by your presentation.

--15% of your grade will be determined by my evaluation of your participation in and contribution to the seminar. In determining this portion of your grade, I will consider the quality of your attention to and interventions in class discussion, and of your preparations for class. Further, this portion of the grade **will be forfeited by any student with more than two unexcused absences from class.** If medical or other circumstances affect your participation in the seminar, please discuss them with me. As circumstances warrant, I will excuse you from class and make whatever arrangements are possible to help you keep up with our work, without penalty to your grade.

As required by the University, I remind you that *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/handbook/appeals/scholastic\_discipline\_grad.pdf

In my own voice, let me observe that we become scholars and critics by modeling ourselves on others. I urge you to read widely this term and to use your reading to find your own style and mode of critical argument. If when preparing an essay or presentation for this class you become in any way concerned about the question of plagiarism, please come and discuss the matter with me.