

ENG 479/579  
Prof. Wonham  
[wonham@uoregon.edu](mailto:wonham@uoregon.edu)

Office Hours:  
Mon., Wed., Fri., 2:00-3:00  
PLC 274

### Edith Wharton and Henry James

**Course Description:** This advanced seminar will expose students to some of the most challenging fiction and criticism written by Edith Wharton and Henry James. Among the many themes and issues to be discussed, particular attention will be paid to the idea of cosmopolitanism, intellectual culture (especially among women and in relation to questions of gender), materialism and consumerism, romance and realism, marriage and the form of the novel, art and the fetishization of objects, the question of evil, and much more. The following texts have been ordered at the Duck Store:

Edith Wharton, *Ethan Frome*  
*The Writing of Fiction*  
*The House of Mirth*  
*The Custom of the Country*  
*Roman Fever and Other Stories*

Henry James, *The Bostonians*  
*The Portrait of a Lady*  
*The Spoils of Poynton*

A copy of the Norton Critical Edition of *Tales of Henry James* will be provided on the first day of class to each student.

**Papers, Exams, Grading:** There will be two assigned papers in the course, a 5 page critical essay due on Monday, November 3, and a 10 page essay due on Friday, December 5. There will be a take home final exam due at 10:00 am on Monday, December 15. Essays # 1 and the final exam will each be worth 20% of the final grade. Essay #2 will be worth 50%, and class participation will make up the remaining 10% of the final grade.

**Plagiarism:** Students who hand in written material that is not their own will receive an F for the course, and a report will be submitted to the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards to determine if additional sanctions should be imposed.

**Attendance:** Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes. Absences must be approved in advance by the professor.

### Learning Outcomes:

Students in the course will improve their skills in the following areas:

1) they will read literary and cultural texts with discernment and comprehension and with



Mon., Nov. 10: James, *The Portrait of a Lady*  
Wed., Nov. 12: James, *The Portrait of a Lady*  
Fri., Nov. 14: James, *The Portrait of a Lady*

**Week 8**

Mon., Nov. 17: Wharton, *The Custom of the Country*  
Wed., Nov. 19: Wharton, *The Custom of the Country*  
Fri., Nov. 21: Wharton, *The Custom of the Country*

**Week 9**

Mon., Nov. 24: Wharton, *The Custom of the Country*  
Wed., Nov. 26: Wharton, *The Custom of the Country*  
Fri., Nov. 28: No Class—Thanksgiving Break

**Week 10**

Mon., Dec. 1: Wharton, *The Custom of the Country*  
Wed., Dec. 3: James, *The Spoils of Poynton*  
Fri., Dec. 5: James, *The Spoils of Poynton*  
Final essay (10 pp.) due in class

**Take home final exam due 10:00 am in PLC 274 Monday, Dec. 15.**