

## The Short Forms of Oscar Wilde



### SCHOOL

Faculty of Languages,  
Humanities and Social  
Sciences (LLSH)



### CAMPUS

Belle-Beille



### OPEN TO EXCHANGE STUDENTS

Yes



### LEVEL

3rd year Bachelor's degree



### SEMESTER

Fall (S1)

- > **Degree course:** LLCER
- > **Teaching unit:** The Short Forms of Oscar Wilde
- > **Course language:** English
- > **Duration (hours):** 1
- > **ECTS:** 2
- > **Teacher(s):** Emmanuel vernadakis

#### > Assessment:

- Continuous assessment
- Final exam

#### > Teaching methods:

- Lecture course 12 hours
- Tutorial course hours
- Practical work hours

- Case study
- Project

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course frames Oscar Wilde's writings in the context of shortness. Wilde's tales, short stories, prose poems, and one-act play explore complex aesthetic, emotional, and social or ideological issues, through an elegant juxtaposition of symbolism, wit, and sentiment, by means of a concise writing style that draws on the author's extensive literary and philosophical background. They will be studied with due regard to conciseness and compactness, typical characteristics of the economy of short forms which Wilde mastered in an almost instinctive way thanks to his Irish heritage, fostered by storytelling. Shortness will eventually be examined in Wilde's longer writings through the axiomatic formulae of his essays, witticism, aphorisms, maxims etc. The similarities and differences between the genres will shed light on the permeability of each of these categories revealing that shortness is a major structural and aesthetic principle of Wilde's work, pertaining to the enduring brilliance of his vision.

## OBJECTIVES

The aim of this course is, on the one hand, to introduce students to the demanding reading of short forms which, because of their compactness, invite the reader to respond to them in a different way than to longer forms (i.e. novels), by opening up to a search for meaning within tropes and signs that conceal it. The aim is to initiate the reader to the reading of various short forms, the fairy tale, the prose poem, the short story and the one-act play, each of which offers its own modalities of generating sense. Students will also be introduced to the work of Oscar Wilde.

## PREREQUISITES

It is recommended to be fluent in reading and writing in English.

## SELECTIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- Oscar Wilde. Complete Shorter Fiction (1979). Oxford World Classics, OUP, 2014
- Oscar Wilde. Salomé (bilingue). Paris, Garnier Flammarion, 1993.
- Bristow, Joseph (ed.) Oscar Wilde and the Cultures of Childhood. London, Palgrave, 2017 Ellmann,  
Richard. Oscar Wilde. Hamilton, London, 1987.
- Kileen, Jarlath. The Fairy Tales of Oscar Wilde. London. Ashgate, 2007.
- Levine, Caroline, Forms. Whole, Rhythm, Hierarchy, Network. Princeton University Press, 2017. Meynard,  
Cécile et Emmanuel Vernadakis. Formes brèves. Rennes, PUR, 2018.
- Varty, Anne. A Preface to Oscar Wilde. Longman, London, 1988.

## OTHER INFORMATION

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