Hauntings in the Church: Counterfeit Christianity through the Fin de Siècle Gothic Novel

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Abstract
The lengthy Victorian period, extending from 1832 until 1901, was a time of cultural turmoil. New scientific discoveries were being made daily, and Christianity was forced to deal with issues of Darwinism, occultism, and growing disbelief in God. By the start of the fin de siècle, God was an impartial deity sitting on His almighty throne, and man was nothing more than a highly evolved animal. The church, both Catholic and Anglican, did not exist to lead man toward salvation, but existed because of a dated adherence to cultural tradition.

No one genre captured the religious upheavals of the age better than did the Gothic novel. With its intrinsic fascination with the supernatural and the unexplained, the Gothic novel proved to be an excellent platform for authors to air their beliefs about rising spiritualism, Catholicism, and aestheticism in a predominantly Anglican country. Through the analysis of Marie Corelli's Vendetta!, Bram Stoker's Dracula, and Oscar Wilde's The Picture of Dorian Gray, three of the most popular novels of the fin de siècle, a better picture of the religious opinions of England's literary elite can be drawn, along with suppositions about the popularity of such novels in a faith-starved culture.
outgrowths and developments examined in the 

HIST60932: The Fin-de-Siècle

Carl Saltzmann, The First Electric Streetlight in Berlin (1884)

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1 Module Outline

Course Description

The fin-de-siècle – taken here to stretch from the 1880s to the First World War – was a disorientating period for contemporaries, and one which has.

Aims

To develop a critical understanding of the intellectual theories underpinning debates around degeneration and decadence.

To develop a systematic and analytical understanding of inter-disciplinary approaches (theoretical and methodological) to the Hauntings in the Church: Counterfeit Christianity through the Fin de Siècle Gothic Novel. Melissa Ann West. The lengthy Victorian period, extending from 1832 until 1901, was a time of cultural turmoil. With its intrinsic fascination with the supernatural and the unexplained, the Gothic novel proved to be an excellent platform for authors to air their beliefs about rising spiritualism, Catholicism, and aestheticism in a predominantly Anglican country.

Through the analysis of Marie Corelli's Vendetta!, Bram Stoker's , and Oscar Wilde's The Picture of Dorian Gray, three of the most popular novels of the fin de siècle, a better picture of the religious opinions of England's literary elite can be drawn, along with suppositions about the popularity of such novels in a faith-sta Gothic is a genre with a rich history that still exists today through the works of authors like Stephen King. Learn more about its elements and characteristics. Dark, Abandoned, Decaying Settings. “Gothic” also alludes to a style of grand, ornate architecture in France in the 12th century. In Gothic lit, you see lots of haunted houses, cobwebbed castles, derelict churches, and other once-glorious architecture that has fallen into disrepair. You also see dark, cramped, and claustrophobic interiors with hidden doors and secret passageways, settings with hidden skeletons. The outside world in Gothic literature is usually portrayed as being a dark, wild, and treacherous place full of wrathful weather, malevolent forests, and ghostly graveyards. Romanticiz