

Queer Multiculturalism

MIDTERM ESSAY ASSIGNMENT

Due Tuesday, March 7, by the beginning of class, as a Microsoft Word attachment on WesternOnline. This essay should reach approximately five pages in length. Double-space everything. Use a standard-sized font and regular margins. Paginate and create an original title. If you wish to include sources other than the textbooks, you will need to append a bibliography; otherwise, it is not necessary.



He is never more present in my work than when no image of him is there. — The Picture of Dorian Gray, Chapter 1.

Assignment Description & Task:

This assignment asks you to analyze either *Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit*, or *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, through the lens of the closet, as articulated by Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick in *Epistemology of the Closet*. Choose a single passage from the novel on which to center your discussion and use your close reading of that passage to make a statement about its significance to the novel as a whole and its relation to the homosexual closet.

Your task is *not* to provide a complete and all-embracing interpretation of either novel, but to make a limited, thesis-driven argument about the relevance of a key passage to the novel and to the question of the closet. You are welcome to dispute or modify Sedgwick's queer theory.

Photograph of Bosie (Lord Alfred Douglas), The Prototype for Dorian Gray