

English 5306: British Gothic Literature
Dr. Sharon Hileman
Spring 2016

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Course Description: This is a class in which you will meet monstrous “others,” hero-villains, ghosts, vampires, mysterious doubles, and demonic characters. We will investigate how such beings, as well as the structures and themes of Gothic literature, reflect social, political, economic, and gender concerns contemporaneous with their development. Our study will begin with the inception of Gothic literature in late eighteenth-century novels, consider its relationship to Romanticism during the nineteenth century, and trace its development in twentieth-century fiction. Readings will include novels, novellas, short stories, and critical essays.

Course Learning Outcomes: By taking this class, students will

- Become familiar with the history of the Gothic genre
- Recognize political, economic, and cultural influences on the Gothic during different eras
- Understand the literary themes, conventions, and motifs characteristic of Gothic literature
- Make connections between the historical Gothic genre and its contemporary manifestations
- Develop close reading, analytical writing, and online research skills

Program Learning Outcomes: English graduate students will be able to

- Demonstrate an understanding of the significance of major authors, literary works in different genres, and definitive literary movements in British and American literature
- Explicate literary works representative of two periods or genres in British literature and two periods or genres in American literature
- Employ methodology and terminology used in creative writing or linguistics
- Conduct substantial research to support original interpretations of literary works, provide original applications of literary or linguistic theories, or present literature reviews of authors or genres that have inspired creative writing projects

Course Requirements: Students will read assigned texts and web site materials. Assignments will include blog posts, reading and response questions, a research project, and a final exam.

Here is the point distribution:

Blog posts	240 points
Reading/response questions	300 points
Research Project	260 points
Final exam	200 points

Grades will be given based on these points: A=900-1000 points, B=800-899 points, C=700-799 points, D=600-699 points, F= below 600 points

Course Policies:

- Students are expected to check their Sul Ross e-mail and the course announcements page regularly for announcements pertaining to the class. The Sul Ross e-mail address should also be used when corresponding with the instructor. Please ALWAYS SIGN e-mails sent to the instructor!
- Due dates are provided for all assignments; this is not a work-at-your-own-pace class. Detailed information about each assignment can be viewed on the Assignments page.
- Late work will be penalized for each day it is late.
- Online exams must be taken at the times they are scheduled unless there is a documentable emergency or technical difficulty.
- Attendance is not a web class requirement, but students are required to access the course regularly and submit assignments in a timely fashion. If you do not turn in four successive assignments, you will be eligible to be dropped.

Required Texts: The following books are required, and we will read them in the order they are listed. Please note that you will be assigned critical articles from books in the *Norton Critical Editions* and the *Case Studies in Contemporary Criticism*, so be sure to obtain the texts specified below:

- Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*, 2nd edition in *Norton Critical Editions*, ISBN: 9780393927931
- Emily Brontë, *Wuthering Heights*, 2nd edition in *Case Studies in Contemporary Criticism*, ISBN: 9780312256869
- Robert Louis Stevenson, *Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, *Norton Critical Edition*, ISBN: 9780393974652
- Bram Stoker, *Dracula*, *Norton Critical Edition*, ISBN: 9780393970128
- Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*, *Case Studies in Contemporary Criticism*, ISBN: 9780312457532
- Susan Hill, *The Woman in Black*, ISBN: 9780307745316
- Angela Carter, *Burning Your Boats: The Collected Short Stories*, ISBN: 9780140255287

Distance Education Statement: Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, library resources, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website. Students should submit online assignments through Blackboard or SRSU email, which require secure login information to verify students' identities and to protect students' information. The procedures for filing a student complaint are included in the student handbook. Students enrolled in distance education courses at Sul Ross are expected to adhere to all policies pertaining to academic honesty and appropriate student conduct, as described in the student handbook. Students in web-based courses must maintain appropriate equipment and software, according to the needs and requirements of the course, as outlined on the SRSU website.

Americans With Disabilities Act Statement: Sul Ross State University is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1973. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request for accessibility services. Students seeking accessibility services must contact Mary Schwartz, M. Ed., L.P.C., in Counseling and Accessibility Services, Ferguson Hall, Room 112. The mailing address is P.O. Box C-122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas 79832. Telephone: 432-837-8203. E-mail: mschwartz@sulross.edu .

Assignments Top of Form



[Predecessors \(click here for information\)](#)

The first assignment is to introduce yourself to the class through a Discussion Board post. Please respond to the prompt for the introduction and respond to another student's post by midnight **July 9**.

Read the material available through the "Predecessors" link above and post your response to the prompt based on this material on the Discussion Board by midnight **July 13**.



[McCloud's Understanding Comics \(click here for instructions\)](#)

Reading Questions due **July 16**



[Barry's One Hundred Demons \(click here for instructions\)](#)

Discussion Board post due **July 20**



[Gaiman's Dream Country \(click here for instructions\)](#)

Reading Questions due **July 23**



[Spiegelman's Maus \(click here for instructions\)](#)

Discussion Board post due **July 27**

Reading Questions from Vol. I due **July 28**

Reading Questions from Vol. 2 due **July 30**



[Moore and Lloyd's V for Vendetta \(click here for instructions\)](#)

Reading Questions due **Aug. 6**



[Creative Project \(click here for instructions\)](#)

Discussion Board post about project due **Aug. 3**

Project due **Aug. 9**



Final Exam August 11

Study Guide for final exam:

The exam is both multiple choice and essay. Access it from the course menu by clicking on the Quiz, Test, Exam button. Use Mozilla Firefox or Google Chrome as your browser because Internet Explorer tends to freeze on exams.

The exam will be available from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.