

**Spring 2013**  
**English 337: Gothic Literature**

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**Course Description:**

Is “there joy in fear” as one of our heroines exclaims? What about in horror? Why do we love to read about hero-villains and naïve innocents, moldering castles and damp dungeons? This class will explore the relationship between literary creation and imitation, as well as the recurrent motifs of sexual violence, intergenerational family cycles, fears of racialized others, and humanity’s relationship with nature. Following current scholarship, we will pose questions about representations of violence, the significance of fantasy and fear, and the role of gender, race, class, and sexuality in interpretation. Authors may include Beckford, Radcliffe, Shelley, Stevenson, Stoker, and Walpole.

**Required Texts:**

You must have all these texts in the assigned editions—no substitutions. I’ve included the ISBNs and publishers so there is no confusion over which editions you should purchase.

Walpole, *The Castle of Otranto*.

Austen, *Northanger Abbey*.

Bronte, *Wuthering Heights*.

Shelley, *Frankenstein*.

Stoker, *Dracula*.

Stevenson, *Jekyll & Hyde*.

Additional texts available on Moodle page and in photocopy.

**Optional Text:**

*MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, Seventh Edition*. (2009) or another writer’s handbook. There are also links to a number of (free) online writing resources on the Moodle website. In addition, I strongly encourage all of you to visit the college’s writing center. Few things in literary studies are simply true. Here’s one of them: all writers always need to work on their writing, so take advantage of the many resources Whittier College provides you!

**Requirements**

You will write two essays and a final exam during the semester, as well as contribute to a collective gothic novel project and a project on representations of violence. *All these assignments must be completed in order to pass the class*. In addition, there will be sporadic short assignments and/or quizzes throughout the semester.

**Grading**

All assignments must be completed to receive a passing grade.

Participation & Assignments

20%

(Includes quizzes, imitations, etc.)	
First Paper	15
Second Paper	15
Gothic Novel Project	15
Representing Violence Project	15
Final Exam	20

### **Accommodations**

Students desiring accommodations on the basis of physical, learning, or psychological disability for this class are to contact Disability Services. Disability Services is located on the ground floor of the Library, room G003, and can be reached by calling extension 4825. No requirement exists that accommodations be made prior to completion of this approved College process.

### **Academic Integrity**

All the work you submit in this course must have been written for this course and not another and must originate with you in form and content, with contributory sources fully and specifically acknowledged. Make yourself familiar with Whittier's Academic Integrity Code at <http://www.whittier.edu/facultyhandbook/default.htm>. This link is available on the Moodle website. I may, and often do, submit papers to Turnitin.com, an online plagiarism database. *In this course, the normal penalty for a violation of the code is an "F" for the term and a report to the Dean of Students. Really.*

### **Guidelines for Written Work**

I strongly recommend that you read the following two websites. Both offer excellent information on writing, drafting, and grading. Links are on Moodle.

- "GETTING AN A ON AN ENGLISH PAPER" at <http://andromeda.rutgers.edu/~jlynch/EngPaper/>
- "PAPERS: EXPECTATIONS, GUIDELINES, ADVICE, AND GRADING" at <http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/~dwhite/papers.htm>
- Use MLA style guidelines for all your written work in this class. You are responsible for knowing those guidelines. See the resources on the Moodle webpage or purchase the recommended MLA handbook for details.

Complete the readings by the dates they appear on the schedule below and ALWAYS bring the relevant texts to class. Items marked with an asterisk \* will be available through the Moodle page.

Course Introduction: What is the Gothic?	
<b>GOTHIC BEGINNINGS</b>	
Walpole, <i>The Castle of Otranto</i> (1764)	Update Moodle with Photo; bring question about syllabus to class.
Walpole, <i>The Castle of Otranto</i>	Gothic Imitation Due
Wordsworth, "Preface" to <i>Lyrical Ballads</i> (excerpt)* Burke, <i>Philosophical Enquiry...Sublime and Beautiful</i> (excerpt)*	
Freud, "The Uncanny"* Todorov, <i>The Fantastic</i> (excerpt)*	
Screening: <i>The Romantics</i> , disc 2	Essay #1 Due
Shelley, <i>Frankenstein</i> , Vol 1 (1816)	
<i>Frankenstein</i> , Vol 2	
<i>Frankenstein</i> , Vol 3	
<i>Frankenstein</i> criticism tba	Debate Day
Screening: <i>Bride of Frankenstein</i> (1935)	
Austen, <i>Northanger Abbey</i> (1817)	
Austen, <i>Northanger Abbey</i>	Gothic Imitation Due
<b>GOTHIC REVIVAL</b>	Begin Gothic Novel
Bronte, <i>Wuthering Heights</i> (1847)	
Bronte, <i>Wuthering Heights</i>	
Bronte, <i>Wuthering Heights</i>	
Screening: <i>The Innocents</i> (1961)	
Stevenson, <i>Jekyll &amp; Hyde</i> (1886)	
Stevenson, <i>Jekyll &amp; Hyde</i>	Gothic Novel Project Due

<b>VAMPIRES</b>	
Screening: <i>Dracula</i> adaptation tba	Essay #2 Due
Polidori, "The Vampyre" (1819)*	Begin Violence Project
Le Fanu, <i>Carmilla</i> (1872)*	
Stoker, <i>Dracula</i> , ch 1-IX (1897)	
<i>Dracula</i> , ch X-XIX	
<i>Dracula</i> , ch XX-end	
Conclusions	Violence Project Due
FINAL	