

ENGL 2120: Fall 2019

Instructor Information

Professor Amy Ellison

Office Location: TLC 3131

Email: aellison@westga.edu

Phone: 678-839-4882

Office Hours: M/W from 12:30-2 pm and T/Th from 9:30-1 pm

Course Description

A course focused on a specific topic in British and transnational literatures and cultures, with an emphasis on finding pleasure in reading and engaging ideas in literary texts. One of four possible choices of 2000 level classes for English majors. May be repeated for credit as topic varies.

Section Description

Course Theme: *The Monstrous and the Grotesque*

- ❖ This course will focus on texts (primarily a novel, creative non-fiction selections, and a film) that highlight standard definitions of the monstrous and the grotesque, focusing on the human body and all the ways that it can be distorted or exaggerated, simultaneously eliciting our empathy and disgust. Our discussion will define and redefine these terms, explore authors' interpretations of these terms, and examine not only the physically "monstrous," but also that which makes us psychologically, socially, and intellectually uncomfortable.

Texts and Course Supplies

1. Texts are free online (see the "Reading" tab on CourseDen or the urls provided on the reading schedule).
2. Reading journal: purchase a separate, hardbound journal for class readings, notes, etc.
3. Use Google Docs and Google Drive to save and backup your work.

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes

- In this class, students will develop the skills necessary to interpret texts organized around a specific topic, with a focus on close reading, locating the text in historical/cultural context, and increased understanding of how literary texts can be read independent of and within these contexts. Students will read a range of texts from different time periods and genres, written by a diverse selection of authors, and will practice using literary texts to better understand various cultures and sub-cultures, and eras. Students will practice reading and interpretive skills with a focus on how literature responds to its own and their own contexts.
- Use a selection of British literatures to identify and engage with social and cultural themes in literary texts, both verbally and in writing;
- Demonstrate reading and interpretation skills such as previewing, close reading, rhetorical analysis annotating, summarizing, journaling, and deep listening, via discussion and various modes of writing;

- Develop the ability to discuss the importance of literature to their lives, environments, and relationships to history, via discussion and various modes of writing;
- Practice active reading by formulating meaningful questions, interrogating their own affinities with and resistance to texts they read, and identifying gaps in knowledge they encounter when reading, both verbally and in writing

Assignments

- Reading Journal: Students respond individually to daily reading assignments/discussions.
- Class Participation: Students will engage in assignments such as class discussion, quizzes, short responses, and reading annotations.
- Synthesis Essay: Students will submit a 3-4 page essay based on two texts from the class, supported by research.
- Individual Presentation: Students will present a British text of their choice, connecting the text with course themes and discussion.

Work Policies

- All work loses 10 points per day late. After points are no longer an option, I will not review the work.
- ****Note**** There is no extra credit work for this course, and no work done for another course may be recycled as an assignment for this course.
- Please see the [Common Language for Course Syllabi](#) for official information on UWG's Academic Integrity Policy. *Note that I will enforce this policy.*

Attendance Policy

When you enter class, make sure to sign the attendance book.
Being engaged and active in class adds to your grade every time we meet!

Communication Rules

You may contact me via UWG Gmail. Do not email me using an email address other than your official account (such as Yahoo)--I will not respond to you for security reasons. I will answer to all emails within 24 hours during the week and generally within 48 hours over the weekends. If you don't hear back from me within that timeframe, please email me again or see me in class.

Expected Response Times

Larger assignments, such as the essay, will generally be graded within two weeks of the due date and will contain feedback on what you did well and what you can do to improve. Smaller assignments will usually take less time to return and will coordinate with the follow up exercise or assignment.

Americans with Disabilities Act Statement:

If you are a student who is disabled as defined under the Americans with Disabilities Act and require assistance or support services, please seek assistance through the [Center for Disability](#).

UWG also provides [Accessibility Statements for Technology](#) that you may be required to use for this course.

For more information on the Americans with Disabilities Act, UWG Email, Credit Hour, and UWG Honor Code policies as well as information on Academic Tutoring, Student Services, and Technical Requirements, Privacy Policy, and Accessibility Statements, please see the [Common Language for Syllabus](#) document.

The University Writing Center (UWC)

TLC 1201

678-839-6513

Hours: Monday-Thursday: 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Friday: 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

writing@westga.edu

www.westga.edu/writing

The University Writing Center seeks to assist students in their pursuit to become better writers, thinkers, and scholars. We can assist students with any writing assignment in any class.

Tentative Class Schedule

Please note that everything is due *before* class, so that we may discuss the assigned reading or work that same day.

August

- | | |
|--------|--|
| R 8/15 | Welcome to class! |
| T 8/20 | “The Second Coming” by Yeats:
https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/43290/the-second-coming

Open Drop and Add Period Ends at 11:59pm |
| R 8/22 | <i>Beowulf</i> —located on CourseDen: pgs 7-57 |
| T 8/27 | <i>Beowulf</i> —located on CourseDen: pgs 89-117 |
| R 8/29 | No class—Ellison at conference |

September

- | | |
|-------|--|
| M 9/2 | <i>Labor Day-No Classes</i> |
| T 9/3 | <i>Beowulf</i> —located on CourseDen: pgs 149-195; Presentations Signup! |

- R 9/5 *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*—located on CourseDen: 1-23 (Flights 1 & 2)
- T 9/10 *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*—located on CourseDen: 24-End (Flights 3 & 4)
- R 9/12 *The Canterbury Tales*—The Wife of Bath’s Prologue:
<https://chaucer.fas.harvard.edu/pages/wife-baths-prologue-and-tale-0>
- T 9/17 *The Canterbury Tales*—The Wife of Bath’s Tale:
<https://chaucer.fas.harvard.edu/pages/wife-baths-prologue-and-tale-0>
- R 9/19 Swift’s “The Lady’s Dressing Room”:
<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/50579/the-ladys-dressing-room>
Montagu’s “The Reasons that Induced Dr. S. to Write a Poem call’d the Lady’s
Dressing Room”:
<http://homes.chass.utoronto.ca/~cpercy/courses/t-montagu.htm>
- T 9/24 *Doctor Faustus* (beginning until footnote 123):
<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/779/779-h/779-h.htm>
- R 9/26 *Doctor Faustus* (footnote 123-end):
<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/779/779-h/779-h.htm>

October

- T 10/1 In-class viewing of *Black Mirror*, episode TBA
- R 10/3 *Fall Break***
- T 10/8 View before class: *Hamlet* (2009) starring David Tennant
- W 10/9 Last Day to Withdraw with a Grade of W
- R 10/10 Finish discussion of *Hamlet*
- T 10/15 *Frankenstein* (All Letters and Chapters 1-10):
<https://www.gutenberg.org/files/42324/42324-h/42324-h.htm>
- R 10/17 *Frankenstein* (Chapter 11-End):
<https://www.gutenberg.org/files/42324/42324-h/42324-h.htm>
- T 10/22 The Picture of Dorian Gray (Preface-Chapter 10):
<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/174/174-h/174-h.htm>

- R 10/24 The Picture of Dorian Gray (Chapter 11-End):
<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/174/174-h/174-h.htm>
- T 10/29 In class viewing of *Black Mirror*, episode TBA
- R 10/31 “Goblin Market” by Rossetti:
<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/44996/goblin-market>

November

- T 11/5 The Island of Dr. Moreau (Introduction-Chapter VII “The Locked Door): <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/159/159-h/159-h.htm>
- R 11/7 The Island of Dr. Moreau (Chapter VIII- XIV “Doctor Moreau Explains”): <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/159/159-h/159-h.htm>
- T 11/12 The Island of Dr. Moreau (Chapter XV-End):
<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/159/159-h/159-h.htm>
- R 11/14 In class viewing of *Black Mirror*, episode TBA
- T 11/19 Carter’s “The Company of Wolves”—located on CourseDen
- R 11/21 Carter’s “The Bloody Chamber”—located on CourseDen
- T 11/26 *Thanksgiving Break***
- R 11/28 *Thanksgiving Break***

December

- T 12/3 Essay Workshop I
- R 12/5 Essay Workshop II
- F 12/6 *Last Day of Classes*
- Th 12/12 Synthesis Essay due on CourseDen by 1:00 pm**

Grades will be posted to BanWeb by noon on December 16th.