

ENGL 2120

Instructor Information

Professor Amy Ellison

Office Location: TLC 3131

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Office Hours: M/W from 9:30-11am and 12:30-2 pm; T/Th from 9:30-12 pm; other by appt

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: *Mothers and Monsters*

- ❖ In this course, we still study literary and artistic depictions of "the monstrous feminine." Looking at the depictions of women--as monsters--will give us a chance to examine how gender roles change (or stay the same) in different historical periods and genres, and how the monstrous lens provides insight into the fears and challenges of humankind.

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

Texts and Course Supplies

1. *The Bloody Chamber* by Angela Carter
2. *The Ocean at the End of the Lane* by Neil Gaiman

3. *White is for Witching* by Oyeyemi
 4. Access to Netflix for *Macbeth* (2011) and *Penny Dreadful: Season 1*
- All other texts are free online!

Content Advisory

Art and entertainment are filled with the many complicated elements of human life. That means the texts we will discuss may contain violence, sexual content, all manner of potentially offensive themes, and profanity. You should be aware that your continued enrollment in this course requires that you consume such content with maturity and a scholarly perspective. No assignment will be waived on the basis of moral objection.

Assignments

- Class Participation: Students will engage in assignments such as class discussion, quizzes, short responses, and reading annotations. 20%
- Short Responses: Each response should be a 500-750 word (generally 2-3 pages) exploration of one text within the corresponding assignment group, focusing on the text's cultural relevance. 20%
- Synthesis Essay: Students will submit a 1500-1750 word (generally 5-7 pages) essay based on texts from the class, supported by research. 40%
- Mini-Conference Presentation: Students will present essays to the class in outline form, focusing on the main focus and findings in their research. 20%

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 boosts 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 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 time frame, 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.

January

T 1/7	Welcome to class! What is a “Monster?”
R 1/9	What is “Britishness?” What is “Feminism?” How do monsters connect?
T 1/14	<i>Beowulf</i> —located on CourseDen: beginning to pg 89 Open Drop and Add Period Ends at 11:59pm
R 1/16	<i>Beowulf</i> —located on CourseDen: pgs 89-117
T 1/21	Read from <i>The Bloody Chamber</i>

- R 1/23 Read from *The Bloody Chamber*
- T 1/28 *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*—located on CourseDen: 1-23 (Flights 1 & 2)
- R 1/30 *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*—located on CourseDen: 24-End (Flights 3 & 4)
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February

- T 2/4 **RESPONSE #1 DUE (select from January readings)**
The Canterbury Tales—The Wife of Bath’s Prologue:
<https://chaucer.fas.harvard.edu/pages/wife-baths-prologue-and-tale-0>
- R 2/6 Read from *The Bloody Chamber*
- T 2/11 *The Canterbury Tales*—The Wife of Bath’s Tale:
<https://chaucer.fas.harvard.edu/pages/wife-baths-prologue-and-tale-0>
Recommendation: begin reading *White is for Witching* by Oyeyemi
- R 2/13 Read from *The Bloody Chamber*
- T 2/18 Watch Shakespeare, *Macbeth* (2011, with Patrick Stewart)
- R 2/20 Continued discussion
- T 2/25 Due in its entirety: *White is for Witching* by Oyeyemi
- R 2/27 Continued discussion
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March

- T 3/3 **RESPONSE #2 DUE (Select from February readings)**
Frankenstein (All Letters and Chapters 1-10):
<https://www.gutenberg.org/files/42324/42324-h/42324-h.htm>
- R 3/5 *Frankenstein* (Chapter 11-End):
<https://www.gutenberg.org/files/42324/42324-h/42324-h.htm>
- T 3/10 “Goblin Market” by Rossetti:
<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/44996/goblin-market>
- R 3/12 Continued discussion
- T 3/17 Spring Break

- R 3/19 Spring Break
- T 3/24 *Penny Dreadful* Episodes 1 & 2
Recommendation: begin reading *The Ocean at the End of the Lane*
- R 3/26 *Penny Dreadful* Episodes 3 & 4
- T 3/31 *Penny Dreadful* Episodes 5 & 6
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April

- R 4/2 **RESPONSE #3 DUE (Select from March readings; may include all of PD)**
Penny Dreadful Episodes 7 & 8
- T 4/7 Honors Scholars Day--No Classes
- R 4/9 Due in its entirety: *The Ocean at the End of the Lane*
- T 4/14 Continued discussion of *The Ocean at the End of the Lane*
- R 4/16 **RESPONSE #4 DUE (Connect *The Ocean* to any other reading of choice)**
Essay discussion
- T 4/21 Research day--please visit my office if you need assistance
- R 4/23** Research day--please visit my office if you need assistance
- T 4/28 Mini-Conference Presentations Day 1
- R 4/30 Mini-Conference Presentations Day 2
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May

- T 5/5 **Final Essay due on CourseDen by Midnight**