

Listen

The Monstrous & Grotesque

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Office Location	TLC 3131	Office Hours	M/W 11-2 T 12:30-2
Telephone	678-839-4882 (I prefer email or Google Chat.)	Online Hours	MW 11-2 Th 12:30-2

SUPPORT FOR COURSES

CourseDen D2L Home Page https://westga.view.usg.edu/	Student Services http://uwgonline.westga.edu/online-student-guide.php
D2L UWG Online Help (8 AM – 5 PM) http://uwgonline.westga.edu/students.php Call: 678-839-6248 or 1-855-933-8946 or email: online@westga.edu	Center for Academic Success http://www.westga.edu/cas/ 678-839-6280
24/7/365 D2L Help Center Call 1-855-772-0423 or search: https://d2lhelp.view.usg.edu/	Distance Learning Library Services http://libguides.westga.edu/content.php?pid=194430
University Bookstore http://www.bookstore.westga.edu/	Ingram Library Services http://www.westga.edu/library/
Turnitin	UWG Writing Center

<http://turnitin.com/><http://www.westga.edu/writing/>

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Description

“For the monster is not in my face, but in my soul.”

--Caliban (Frankenstein’s Monster) from *Penny Dreadful*

Over the course of the semester, we will examine the role of the monstrous and grotesque as moving beyond merely incarnations of our deepest fears, but also as reflections of our broader cultural preoccupations and desires. Drawing on a series of genres – from short stories to television shows to films – we will discuss the multitude of roles inhabited by our fictional monsters; likewise, we will approach these texts through the lenses of history, sociology, psychology, and literary criticism.

TEXTS, READINGS, INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES, AND REFERENCES

Required Text(s)

- *On Ugliness*, by Umberto Eco
- *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, by Oscar Wilde
- *Sandman, Vol 1: Preludes and Nocturnes*, by Neil Gaiman
- *The Girl With All the Gifts*, by M.R. Carey

Films: *Evil Dead 2* (Raimi, 1987); *Slither* (Gunn, 2006); *Pan's Labyrinth* (del Toro, 2006); *The Cabin in the Woods* (Goddard 2009); *The Babadook* (Kent, 2014).

You need to watch these films prior to class on the date scheduled for discussion. All of them are readily accessible (often through Netflix or Amazon). Due to time constraints, we will not be watching them in class.

ASSIGNMENTS

Assignment name	Description	Percentage
Discussions	We use these discussions to generate class focus and ensure textual comprehension. Everyone will come to class with a comment AND question, and I will call on you!	20%

Cultural Events	<p>Students are required to attend five cultural events over the course of the semester; these may be in the form of movies, plays, or art exhibits. Said cultural events <i>must</i> center on the course theme (the monstrous and the grotesque), and students will write a 1-2 page narrative detailing the event and its representation of the monstrous and/or the grotesque, again in light of some of the issues that anchor the course (the various roles of our cultural monsters, history of the horror genre, the doppelganger motif, trope of the mad scientist, evolving role of the zombie in popular culture, etc.).</p> <p>Please note that, per the specifications for XIDS 2100 courses, your cultural event narratives must be based on a <i>variety</i> of cultural events. While it's fine for you to count a horror film as a cultural event, you cannot watch five films to fulfill the requirement; your writings must address a variety of genres. I would recommend considering a film, a short story (or novel if you're feeling ambitious), a play, a documentary (though not one of the two we will discuss in class), historical occurrences of the grotesque, and/or news stories (whether contemporary or past) detailing "real life" monsters (serial killers, for example). This may sound like a daunting task, but there is plenty of material available to easily fulfill this requirement.</p>	30%
Final Exam	Comprehensive exam of all assigned texts.	30%
Presentations	In groups of 2-3, you will present on a monstrous/grotesque text of your choice, explaining how it connects to themes we've explored throughout the semester.	20%
TOTAL		100%

GRADING INFORMATION & POLICY

Grading structure and point scale:

90% - 100%	A
80% - 89%	B
70% - 79%	C
60% - 69%	D
< 60%	F
Not submitted	0

Please see the [Common Language for Course Syllabi](#) for official information on [UWG's Academic Integrity Policy](#). Note that I will enforce this policy. In addition, allow me to share my standard statement on plagiarism:

The Department of English and Philosophy defines plagiarism as taking personal credit for the words and ideas of others as they are presented in electronic, print, and verbal sources. The Department expects that students will accurately credit sources in all assignments. An equally dishonest practice is fabricating sources or facts; it is another form of misrepresenting the truth. Plagiarism is grounds for failing the course. Not sure about something? ASK ME!

If an idea does not come fully-sprung from your own skull, you need to figure out whose idea it is and give them credit through citation. If you cheat in my class, you will receive an automatic F for the class. Do not test this.

COMMUNICATION RULES

Communication Rules:

I encourage you to visit me during my office hours. Please feel free to come by to ask questions about the readings or to discuss any element of your writing and research at any stage of the process. See me the *same day* you begin to have a question or concern. Please do not wait until the day before an assignment is due to seek assistance—give yourself time to think and write, and ask questions early and often.

I prefer that you send me your questions via UWG email. I will return all emails in 36 hours during the week and within 48 hours over the weekends.

Special Note:

The Board of Regents, the governing body for the University System of Georgia, recently passed new rules regarding sexual misconduct and its reporting. (It's called BOR 4.1.7 Sexual Misconduct Policy, link [here](#).) As of July 1, 2016, **all faculty and staff must promptly and fully report complaints of or information regarding**

sexual misconduct to the Title IX Coordinator on campus. Here is the UWG [Title IX website](#).

What this means is that I cannot guarantee confidentiality if you come to me and tell me about an instance of sexual misconduct. I must report. However, the following locations and individuals can offer confidential support, and I strongly encourage you to talk to them. I can help you contact these places, too.

(This one is not confidential, but you should have it) **UNIVERSITY POLICE** 678-839-6000 (96000 on campus)

COUNSELING CENTER Counseling Center
Location: 123 Row Hall
Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM-5:00 PM
Tel: (678) 839-6428 (after hours call UWG Police)
Email: counseling@westga.edu

HEALTH SERVICES 678-839-6452

PATIENT /VICTIM ADVOCATES 678-839-0641; 678-839-5338 (after hours 678-839-6000)

EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS

Course Structure: Ultimately, your success depends on how much time, energy, and effort you are willing to put into the class. I am only in control over one hundred percent of my own effort, but I promise you will *always* receive my full effort. I hope to see the same level of dedication in you. I want to help you make the grade you desire; I promise that you will receive the grade you earn.

Attendance: Regular participation in this class is vital to its success. You are expected to attend every class session regularly. What we cover in class is what you need to know. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to contact another student for an explanation of what was covered. I offer you **4** absences to do with as you like—use them wisely for the inevitable "stuff" that will mess up your semester: illness, traffic, death in the family, etc. **If you miss 5 classes for whatever reason, you will not pass this class.** Two late arrivals count as one absence, and leaving early applies in the same manner. No distinction exists between excused and unexcused absences, and assignments are still due on the day assigned.

Disruptive Behavior and Electronic Devices: Students will be dismissed from any class meeting at which they exhibit behavior that disrupts the learning environment of others. Such behavior includes—but is not limited to—arriving late for class, allowing cell phones to ring, speaking disrespectfully to the instructor and/or to other students, checking email or surfing the web, and using personal audio or video devices. Electronics may be used for class-related work only; use for other purposes will result in your dismissal from class. Each dismissal of this kind will count as an absence and will be applied toward the attendance policy.

Sleeping—for a minute or an hour—counts as an absence. For the sake of transparency, my biggest pet peeves are off-task electronic usage (multitasking is a myth) and class disruption (we have to feel safe in our discussions).

Late work policy: Assignments are accepted late with a 10% penalty per day late, and submission opportunities are closed after five days. I strongly recommend that students make an electronic copy of everything submitted to me through Turnitin.

Other: For 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.