

**Carleton University
Summer 2015
Department of English**

ENGL 2103A: *Introduction to the Novel*

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:30-5:20 PM

Location: Southam Hall 517 (Please confirm on Carleton Central)

Instructor: Alexander Grammatikos

Email: alexandergrammatikos@email.carleton.ca

Office: 1905 Dunton Tower

Office Hours: By appointment

This course examines the development of the British Gothic novel from 1764 until the end of the nineteenth century. We will start by examining the conventions of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century British Gothic fiction before reading six novels which represent the genre. The novels we read employ the Gothic for various reasons: to comment on patriarchy and the rights of women; to scrutinize certain scientific methods and political movements; to question classicism and imperialism; and to engage with the “Other” (be that Catholic Spain or the Muslim East).

Along with our primary texts, we will read excerpts from critical and theoretical sources—including Sigmund Freud’s “The Uncanny” and Edmund Burke’s *A Philosophical Enquiry into the Origin of Our Ideas of the Sublime and Beautiful*—in order to enhance our readings of the six novels. We will also consider articles from popular periodicals of the period, such as Joseph Addison’s *The Spectator*.

Over the course of the semester, we will discuss the Gothic’s development over the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and the ways authors used the genre to evoke different emotions (horror, fear, awe) and to generate discussion about various topics. By the end of the semester, students will be able to identify Gothic conventions in a range of novels and to understand how the genre contributed to contemporary discussions and debates.

Required Reading List

William Beckford, *Vathek*

Ann Radcliffe, *The Mysteries of Udolpho*

Jane Austen, *Northanger Abbey*

Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*

Emily Bronte, *Wuthering Heights*

Bram Stoker, *Dracula*

All texts will be available through Octopus Books, 116 Third Avenue.

Grading

Attendance and Participation: 20%

Three Response Papers (2 pages each): 30% (10% each)

Final Paper (6-8 pages): 50%

Quizzes: 5% (bonus marks)

Attendance and Participation: 20%

Students are expected to attend all lectures and to participate in class discussion. Each absence will result in a 2% deduction from the Attendance and Participation grade. Exceptions occur where proper documentation is provided.

Three Response Papers: 30% (10% each)

Students have the choice to write on any of the six novels we look at in class. Each of the response papers should be two pages in length. The response papers must be handed in the week that we are discussing a specific novel, but students have the choice to hand the responses in on the first (Tuesday) or second (Thursday) day of discussion.

Final Paper: 50%

The goal of the final paper is to have students think about the ideas and themes we have discussed over the course of the semester. The final paper, which should be between six to eight pages long, can take a variety of formats: students can compare two novels from the course, write about a novel from the course in relation to another eighteenth or nineteenth-century Gothic novel we have not covered in class, or consider the novel in relation to its film version. Final paper topics will be given to students in Week 3 of the semester. Time in class will be scheduled in order to discuss the final paper in more detail.

Quizzes: 5% (bonus marks)

In Weeks 1 to 5, students will be given a quiz at the beginning of Thursday's class which asks for basic information from the novel (i.e. character names, locations, plot details). The quizzes will be in multiple choice and fill-in-the-blank format. Quizzes count for additional (bonus) marks.

Late marks

If you think you will require an extension, please come to see me as far in advance as possible, and bring any relevant documentation.

5% of the final paper's total worth will be deducted per late day (weekends included). All final papers are to be uploaded to CU Learn and physical copies to be handed into me in class.

No extensions will be granted on the response papers.

Technology in the Classroom

Laptops can be used in the classroom as long as they are not distracting to the student and her or his fellow classmates. Cell phones are to be set to vibrate or turned off.

Tentative Schedule

Please note that we may need to make changes during the term; this tentative schedule is not wholly binding.

July 2 (Thursday): Introduction to the Gothic Novel; discussion of Horace Walpole, *The Castle of Otranto* (1764) [not required reading, but recommended!]

July 7 (Tuesday): William Beckford, *Vathek* (1786)

July 9 (Thursday): William Beckford, *Vathek* (1786)
Response Paper 1 due
Quiz 1

July 14 (Tuesday): Ann Radcliffe, *The Mysteries of Udolpho* (1794)

July 16 (Thursday): Ann Radcliffe, *The Mysteries of Udolpho* (1794)
Response Paper 2 due
Quiz 2

July 21 (Tuesday): Jane Austen, *Northanger Abbey* (1817)

July 23 (Thursday): Jane Austen, *Northanger Abbey* (1817)
Response Paper 3 due
Quiz 3

July 28 (Tuesday): Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein* (1818)

July 30 (Thursday): Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein* (1818)
Response Paper 4 due
Quiz 4

August 4 (Tuesday): Emily Bronte, *Wuthering Heights* (1847)

August 6 (Thursday): Emily Bronte, *Wuthering Heights* (1847)
Response Paper 5 due
Quiz 5

August 11 (Tuesday): Bram Stoker, *Dracula* (1897)

August 13 (Thursday): Bram Stoker, *Dracula* (1897)
Response Paper 6 due
Final Paper due

Academic Accommodation

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details see the [Student Guide](#).

Religious obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details see the [Student Guide](#).

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation.

If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable).

After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the [PMC website](#) for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).

PLAGIARISM

The University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;

- handing in “substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.”

Plagiarism is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly by the course’s instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of “F” for the course.