

**Carleton University
Winter 2016
Department of English**

ENGL 2103B: *Introduction to the Novel*

Mondays

Location: 3101 Canal Building *Please confirm location on Carleton Central*

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Ghosts, monsters, freaks, outcasts, post-humans. Empire, war, capitalism, migration. Education, politics, revolutionary consciousness. Gender, sexuality, ethics. This course introduces you to a set of novels that will have you thinking about all of these themes. We'll focus on three sub-genres: the novel of education (also called the *bildungsroman*), characteristically focused on individual growth and accommodation to the social world; the gothic novel, focused on the inverse of those very things; and the speculative novel, focused on the dystopian futures of human reason and progress. We'll explore the ways that types of fiction may be distinguished by their representation of space and time, their positioning of the self in relation to the social world, their theories causality and of knowledge. At the same time, we'll address the blending and transmutation of genres, as the novels on our reading list anticipate and echo each other across centuries and continents.

Required texts:

Charlotte Brontë, *Jane Eyre* (Penguin ISBN 978-0-14-241969-4)
Adele Wiseman, *Crackpot* (McClelland & Stewart ISBN 978-0-7710-8886-5)
Horace Walpole, *Caste of Otranto* (Oxford University Press ISBN 978-0-19-282351-9)
Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein* (Broadview ISBN 9781554811038)
Larissa Lai, *Salt Fish Girl* (Dundurn ISBN 978-0-88762-32-0)

Please try to buy these editions. The texts are available at Octopus Books, 116 Third Avenue, 613-233-2589. You may pick them up in person or order them via the bookstore's website, and have them sent to your home (at extra cost). See www.octopusbooks.ca

Terms of evaluation:

- Two take-home writing assignments 15 + 15 = 30%
- Mid-term test (February 29) 25%
- Final exam 35%
- Class participation 10 %

Note: Students who miss three classes or more will not be eligible to submit work for evaluation or write the final exam.

Reading schedule:

January 11	Introduction
January 18	<i>Castle of Otranto</i>
January 25	<i>Frankenstein</i>
February 1	<i>Frankenstein</i>
February 8	<i>Jane Eyre</i>
February 22	<i>Jane Eyre</i>
February 29	<i>Crackpot</i>
March 7	<i>Crackpot</i>
March 14	<i>Crackpot</i>
March 21	<i>Salt Fish Girl</i>
March 28	<i>Salt Fish Girl</i>
April 4	Review