

**Carleton University
Winter 2020
Department of English**

**ENGL [2100A]: Topics in Popular Culture
Gothic Nightmares**

**Prerequisites: Second-year standing or permission of the Department
Preclusions: Additional credit for English 2101**

Time: Mon/Wed 1:05 – 2:25

Location: *Please confirm location on Carleton Central*

Instructor: Janice Schroeder

Email: Janice.schroeder@carleton.ca

Office: 1924 Dunton Tower

Phone: Use email

Office Hours: Wednesdays, 10:15-11:15

Carleton University is located on unceded Algonquin territory.

Course Description

This course pairs popular fictional narratives from previous eras with their twentieth and twenty-first century spawn. Like a recurring nightmare, these texts, and many of their central characters, reappear with the force of the uncanny, haunting the cultural memory and producing new meanings for each new audience. The course texts will explore a range of generic and formal types (novels, short stories, film, television, comics, etc), allowing for discussion of the literary features and social politics of adaptation, parody, sampling, mash-up, appropriation, and commercialization.

Course Objectives

- To introduce you to a sample of popular literary fiction and its adaptations and re-circulation in popular culture
- To develop an understanding of the social and cultural contexts that informed and continue to inform the circulation of these texts
- To develop an understanding of literary terms, genres, and devices that help us to analyze popular literary texts and their circulation in mass culture
- To develop skills for analyzing and writing about literary and other kinds of cultural texts
- To develop your skills and confidence in oral discussion and oral presentation

TA

Name and contact information will be posted on cuLearn.

Text list

- Arthur Conan Doyle, *Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* (ARES)
- Robert Louis Stevenson, *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* (Broadview)
- Charles Dickens, *Oliver Twist* (Oxford)
- Le Fanu, *In a Glass Darkly* (Broadview)
- Bram Stoker, *Dracula* (Broadview)
- H.G. Wells, *The Time Machine* (Broadview)
- Selected film adaptations

Required texts are available at Haven Books, 43 Seneca (at Sunnyside) and on ARES. Other readings may be posted on cuLearn or on ARES.

Course Assignments (at a glance)

The following assignments are **mandatory**. You must complete all of them in order to receive a grade for the course. You cannot pass the course if you do not complete all of the assignments.

- Attendance and Participation 10%
- Critical Commentaries 40%
- Show and Tell 15%
- Reading quizzes 10%
- Final exam 25%

Course Deadlines are included below but are also posted on cuLearn for quick reference.

Teaching Approach & Class Format

I teach this course using a combination of lecture, discussion, and in-class writing assignments. In between classes, it is your responsibility to read the assigned texts according to the schedule. If you are not keeping up with the readings, you will have a harder time succeeding in this course. Come to class prepared to hear me teach the readings with lecture material—**I advise you to take notes during lectures, as the material I share will be helpful to you as you prepare for your other assignments.**

However, it is not my preference to lecture for 90 minutes straight every class. Studies show that students learn best through a combination of approaches. Come to class prepared to share your thoughts and questions about the readings during class discussion, which will be a combination of small group conversation (think-pair-share), general class discussion, and in-class writing prompts. This may not be appealing to introverts, but the straight lecture is probably not appealing to the extroverts either, so ... we all win. I encourage a relaxed but respectful learning environment in which intellectual curiosity is highly valued.

In general, the first class on each text will be mostly lecture, with perhaps some general class discussion. The second class usually begins with the reading quiz, followed by more lecture notes and small group discussion and/or in-class writing. The third class is usually devoted to a screening of a portion of a film adaptation of the reading assignment, followed by **discussion of**

the adaptation. I advise you to take note of your questions and observations about the films as we watch them. The fourth and final class will be devoted to your Show and Tell presentations.

Course Assignments (in detail)

Critical Commentaries

This assignment requires you to write **three** critical commentaries, due throughout the term. Each commentary should be between 400 and 500 words and should include a works cited list using MLA format. You are asked to write on three of the six major texts we are studying in this course (*Dracula*, “Carmilla,” *Jekyll and Hyde*, *Oliver Twist*, *The Time Machine*, or **one** of the two Sherlock Holmes stories). Each of your commentaries must focus on **the same single topic** taken from the list of topics provided below. At the end of the term, **you will re-submit all your marked commentaries and an Introduction** to the commentaries of 400-500 words (due date below). Your Introduction should summarize your findings on the topic you’ve chosen and provides a thesis or argument tying your commentaries together.

Your commentaries are not formal essays but they are also not a place for you to share your personal opinions about the texts. Rather, they should demonstrate your thorough understanding of the text by engaging thoughtfully and specifically with the text, and with the theme you have chosen to explore.

Commentaries will be graded for 1) demonstrated familiarity with the primary text through the use of examples drawn from the text to support your points; 2) thoughtful interpretation of the primary text using your chosen theme to organize your commentary; 3) clear written expression; 4) correct documentation using MLA citation format and a Works Cited list. I will post a separate document with more details on this assignment on cuLearn.

Each commentary must be handed to me in hard copy and must be double-spaced and must include a works cited list in MLA format. The **due dates** for the commentaries are as follows:

- January 23: Sherlock Holmes (either “A Scandal in Bohemia” **or** “The Man with the Twisted Lip”)*
- February 6: *Jekyll and Hyde**
- March 5: “Carmilla” **or** *Dracula*
- March 19: *Oliver Twist*
- April 2: *The Time Machine*
- April 7: your Introduction (submit to English department drop box, 18th floor Dunton Tower, no later than 4:00 p.m. April 7)

Important: You must **keep your marked copies** of your critical commentaries and re-submit them with your Introduction at the end of the term.

*Because of university guidelines, everyone is required to submit a commentary on **either** January 23 **or** February 6 (**or both** if you choose to do so).

I advise you to look carefully at the assignment schedule and your schedule in your other courses and plan accordingly. Each commentary is worth 10% of your final grade and the Introduction is worth another 10%. You must write all three commentaries and the Introduction to be eligible to write the final exam.

Topics for commentaries

- haunting and/or dreaming
- the grotesque body
- foreignness and/or the exotic
- disguise and/or the double life
- transport and mobility (across time and/or space)
- entrapment and/or incarceration and/or imprisonment
- appetite and/or consumption and/or addiction
- sexual danger/violation
- urban and/or domestic danger/threat
- unconventional masculinity and/or femininity
- madness/insanity
- racialized fear and desire
- the monster/monstrosity/the monstrous
- colonial invasion and/or reverse colonization

5-7 minute Show and Tell

This assignment asks you to research and deliver an oral presentation on **one** artifact that relates to **one** of the primary texts. An artifact is defined as any type of popular adaptation of any one of the primary texts. You might choose to bring in a film clip, a comic strip, an illustration or other piece of visual art, Twitter feed, web series, radio drama, podcast, fan fiction, television episode, poem, novel, stage play, graphic novel, advertisement, video game, etc. There is no shortage of adaptations, parodies, and spinoffs of each of the primary texts or “culture texts” on the reading list and it should be fairly easy for you to find something to show the class by doing library and internet research. You must post your artifact in the Discussion Forum on cuLearn before the class so it is ready to show in class with a minimum of technical fuss.

The second part of the assignment asks you to introduce the artifact in a short presentation that takes **between 5 and 7 minutes**. You should explain how you found the artifact, what you know about it, and, most importantly, how it both refers to and departs from the source text. What do we learn about the source text from this artifact? How well does the source text “translate” to another medium (for example, from novel to film), or to a different audience (from adults to children, for example). See further instructions for this assignment posted in a document on cuLearn.

For your presentation, I advise you to speak from a set of prepared notes (they can be informal), and then to **submit those notes to me at the end of class**. If you would prefer to make a video or PPT with audio voiceover of your presentation instead of speaking in front of the class, you are welcome to do so, but remember that your presentation must be between five and seven minutes

to allow everyone time to present. I will keep everyone to a strict time limit. I will give you a warning at the five minute mark.

You will sign up for a Show and Tell time spot in the second class of the term. If you do not show up to the class and do not sign up for a spot, you will automatically be assigned to one. Show and Tell classes will take place on **January 23** (“Sherlock Holmes”); **February 6** (*Jekyll and Hyde*); **March 5** (“Carmilla” or *Dracula*); **March 19** (*Oliver Twist*); **April 2** (*The Time Machine*). There are a maximum of twelve presentation spots per class and I will send around a sign-up sheet and post the schedule on cuLearn.

Reading Quizzes

Reading quizzes will take place as per the schedule below and are primarily intended to test your **reading knowledge** of the primary texts. There will be five reading quizzes throughout the term, each worth 2% of the final grade and you will be given approximately ten minutes at the beginning of the class to complete the quiz.

You will succeed on these quizzes if you have carefully read the primary text and have paid attention to details, such as names of characters, plot developments, and so on. The questions are all short answer. There will always be a question asking you to identify the year of original publication of the text.

If you miss a quiz because of class absence, you will have the opportunity to take the quiz in my **next** office hour, the following Wednesday after the quiz takes place. Please do not ask me to schedule a special time for you to take the quiz—with 60 students in the course this would be unmanageable. Wednesdays from 10:15-11:15 in my office is the only accommodation time I will be able to offer. I suggest you plug the quiz dates into your calendar now.

If you miss one quiz altogether for whatever reason, you will not be in danger of failing the course. If you miss three or more quizzes, you will not be able to pass the course.

Final exam

Details about the final exam will be circulated well before the end of term. The final exam will consist of a mix of short answer and essay-style questions.

Participation and Attendance

Class participation will be evaluated as follows:

- Did you attend class regularly?
- Did you read the assigned texts before class?
- Did you complete in-class writing assignments* satisfactorily?
- Did you arrive with questions and comments about the reading?
- Did you respond to or engage with other students in class discussion?
- Did other students and/or the professor learn from your contributions?

*In-class writing assignments will take a variety of forms. They may be close reading assignments, impromptu 5-minute essays, learning self-assessments, lecture talk-backs, and/or small-group discussion papers. I have a bunch of tricks up my sleeve, and all of these mini in-

class assignments will factor into your participation grade, which will be an easy 10% for you if you show up regularly and prepared to work.

Class attendance is mandatory. I take attendance at the beginning of every class. If you arrive to class late and/or forget to sign the attendance sheet, it will appear as an unexplained absence on your record. If you leave class 10 minutes after it starts I will notice and will mark you as absent. Regular attendance is a crucial component of your participation grade. If you don't show up to class, you are not participating, and therefore not completing one of the assignments. You must complete all of the assignments in order to pass the course. Spotty attendance and/or serial absences will result in an email from me and a request for a meeting. If there is no pattern of improvement after our meeting, you will receive a grade of zero on the participation assignment. Five absences in a row will lead to a remedial writing assignment which you will be required to complete if you want to pass the course.

It is extremely important that you come to class *prepared*: this means **bringing the textbook to class with you**, and questions/comments for discussion. I do regular spot checks to see who has the text in front of them in class.

MLA

The MLA is the Modern Language Association, an international organization founded to promote the study and teaching of language and literature. The MLA publishes the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, now in its 8th edition. This book is our format bible and will be essential for you not only in this course but in all your English courses. It teaches you how to do things like present names and titles of works correctly, quote from sources, prepare a works cited list at the end of your paper, and use, evaluate, and document online sources. It is not available online. However, the Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL) offers a helpful overview of the basics of MLA style requirements. The MacOdrum Library also has resources on its website.

Policies

Course Policies

Electronics Policy

The use of laptops in class is for the purpose of taking notes. Cell phone use is not permitted in class. When you use laptops and phones in class for non-course related activities you become a distraction to the instructor and your peers. Please turn your phones off before class and keep them off the desk, out of sight. Thank you for your cooperation and for contributing to a productive, respectful seminar space for all. Students who misuse their laptops repeatedly and distract others will receive an e-mail from me requesting a meeting.

Course Copyright

My lectures and course materials, including power point presentations, outlines, and similar materials, are protected by copyright. I am the exclusive owner of copyright and intellectual property in the course materials. You may take notes and make copies of course materials for your own educational use. You may not and may not allow others to reproduce or distribute

lecture notes and course materials publicly for commercial purposes without my express written consent.

Contacting me

I am available during my **office hour on Wednesdays from 10:15-11:15** to discuss any aspect of the course. If this time conflicts with your schedule, I would be happy to schedule an appointment with you, but be aware that my time is not unlimited. I am often available for short meetings right after this class.

Email

I am available on email and I usually respond promptly. If I email you directly with a question or a concern, I expect you to respond. Please do not send me long-winded emails explaining why you were unable to attend class.

Etiquette

Please address me by name when you send an email to me. Do not begin your emails with “Hey.” If you are unsure about email etiquette, please click on the link on the cuLearn page called “How to Email Your Professor (without being annoying AF).” You may address me in your emails, and in person, as Jan, or Professor Schroeder, or Dr. Schroeder. I try really hard to learn everyone’s name in this course.

Please do not ask me or the TA to bring you up to speed on material we covered in class; it is your responsibility to attend class and/or obtain notes from a friend if you have to miss a class. Please do not ask me if we “covered anything important” in class. The answer is always yes.

Carleton University Policies

Completion of Course

Take careful note of [Section 5.1](#) of the Academic Regulations in the Undergraduate Calendar: “To obtain credit in a course, students must satisfy the course requirements as published in the course outline.” If you have failed to complete any of the stipulated requirements the prescribed timelines, or if you have failed to comply with the attendance policy, you will fail the entire course.

Final Grades

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

Academic Integrity

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 form of intellectual theft. It is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly by the course's instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct 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 failure of the assignment, failure of the entire course, or suspension from a program. For more information please go to:

<https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/>

VII. Requests for 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

Please contact your instructor 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, visit the Equity Services website: <https://carleton.ca/equity/contact/form-pregnancy-accommodation/>

Religious obligation

Please contact your instructor 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, visit the Equity Services website: <https://carleton.ca/equity/focus/discrimination-harassment/religious-spiritual-observances/>

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you have a documented disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation or contact your PMC coordinator to send your instructor your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term. You must also contact the PMC 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 your instructor as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made.
carleton.ca/pmc

Survivors of Sexual Violence

As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and its survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: <https://carleton.ca/equity/focus/sexual-violence-prevention-survivor-support/>

Accommodation for Student Activities

Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor 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. <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>

SUPPORT SERVICES

Carleton Health and Counselling Services: Provides outpatient medical services and confidential personal counselling services. Students can self-refer to counselling. For more information visit <http://carleton.ca/health/> or call 613-520-6674.

Student Support Services: Assists you in both academic and non-academic matters. Visit the website to find links to learning support services, financial planning, career services, and health and wellness resources. <https://carleton.ca/academics/support/>

Reading and Assignment Schedule

January 6

Welcome and orientation

January 8

Course introduction

January 13

Intro to Sherlock Holmes

“A Scandal in Bohemia”

January 15

Conan Doyle, “A Scandal in Bohemia”

+ *Sherlock*, “A Scandal in Scarlet” (Gatiss and Moffat)

January 20

Conan Doyle, “The Man with the Twisted Lip”

Sherlock reading quiz

January 22

Sherlock Holmes Show and Tell

Sherlock Critical Commentaries due

January 27

Stevenson, *Jekyll and Hyde*

January 29

Jekyll and Hyde

Jekyll and Hyde reading quiz

February 3

Jekyll and Hyde

+ *Fight Club* (dir. David Fincher)

February 5

Jekyll and Hyde Show and Tell

Jekyll and Hyde Critical Commentaries due

February 10

LeFanu, “Carmilla”

February 12

“Carmilla”

February 17

Winter break

February 19

Winter break

February 24

Stoker, *Dracula*

February 26

Dracula

Dracula reading quiz

March 2

Dracula

+ *Bram Stoker's Dracula* (dir. Francis Ford Coppola)

March 4

Dracula or "Carmilla" Show and Tell

Dracula or "Carmilla" Critical Commentaries due

March 9

Dickens, *Oliver Twist*

March 11

Oliver Twist

Oliver Twist reading quiz

March 16

Oliver Twist

+ *Oliver Twist* (dir. David Lean)

March 18

Oliver Twist Show and Tell

Oliver Twist Critical Commentaries due

March 23

Wells, *The Time Machine*

March 25

The Time Machine

The Time Machine reading quiz

March 30

The Time Machine

+ *The Time Machine* (dir. George Pal)

April 1

The Time Machine Show and Tell

The Time Machine Critical Commentaries due

April 6

Review

Introductions to your Critical Commentaries **due by 4:00 p.m.**