

**Carleton University
Winter 2018
Department of English**

**ENGL [2100A]: Topics in Popular Culture
Nightmare!**

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

**Tuesdays and Thursdays / 10-11:30
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, 1-2:15**

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 include a range of generic and formal types (novels, short stories, film, television, comics, etc), allowing for discussion of the literary and social politics of adaptation, parody, sampling, mash-up, appropriation, and commercialization.

Course Objectives

- To introduce you to a sample of print texts and their adaptations and re-circulation in popular culture
- To develop an understanding of the social and cultural context 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 improve 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* (selected stories)
- Robert Louis Stevenson, *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*
- Charlotte Brontë, *Jane Eyre*
- Jean Rhys, *Wide Sargasso Sea*
- Bram Stoker, *Dracula*
- H.G. Wells, *The Time Machine*
- Selected films, tv series, comics, graphic novels, advertisements, fan fiction etc. to accompany each of these texts. We will screen some clips in class but in the case of certain films, students may need to watch the entire film ahead of time on their own.

Required texts are available at Haven Books, 43 Seneca (at Sunnyside). 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 10%
- Reading quizzes 10%
- Final exam 30%

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. You are asked to write on three of the six major texts we are studying in this course (*Dracula*, *Jane Eyre*, *Wide Sargasso Sea*, *Jekyll and Hyde*, *The Time Machine*, or one of the 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 of 400-500 words (due by Friday, April 13 at 4:00 p.m.) that summarizes 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 follow MLA style guidelines (see notes on MLA below). The due dates for the commentaries are as follows:

- January 25: Sherlock Holmes (either “A Scandal in Bohemia” **or** “The Man with the Twisted Lip”)*
- February 15: *Jane Eyre* **or** *Wide Sargasso Sea**
- March 8: *Dracula*
- March 22: *The Time Machine*
- April 5: *Jekyll and Hyde*
- April 10-13: your Introduction

*Because of university guidelines, everyone is required to submit a commentary on **either** January 25 **or** February 15 (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 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
- disgust/the grotesque
- foreignness/the exotic
- disguise and/or the double
- transport and mobility (across time and/or space)
- appetite/consumption/addiction
- sexual danger
- urban and/or domestic danger/threat
- unconventional masculinity and/or femininity
- madness/insanity

5-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, a radio drama, 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 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 **no longer 5 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 does the source text “translate” to another medium (for example, from novel to film)?

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 of your presentation instead of speaking in front of the class, you are welcome to do so, but remember that your presentation must be five minutes maximum to allow everyone time to present. I will keep everyone to a strict time limit and I will cut you off at the five minute mark whether you are finished speaking or not.

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 25** (“Sherlock Holmes”); **February 8** (*Jane Eyre*); **March 8** (*Dracula*); **March 22** (*The Time Machine*); **April 5** (*Jekyll and Hyde*). There are a maximum of twelve presentation spots per class and I will send around a sign-up sheet.

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.

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.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, successful students will be able to do the following:

1. Demonstrate familiarity with and understanding of a selection of popular literary fiction;
2. Demonstrate awareness and applicability of literary and cultural terms used to describe and interpret this fiction;
3. Demonstrate knowledge of the ongoing popularity of this fiction with reference to its broad reach in a range of mass cultural forms.
4. These outcomes will be practiced and achieved through the creation of brief, effective written reflections on the primary texts; reading quizzes and a final exam; and oral reflection in class, in small groups, and in a short presentation.

Policies

Course Policies

Electronics Policy

The use of laptop computers in class is for the purpose of taking notes only or for in-class research assignments. Cell phone use is not permitted in class. If you are using your laptop for any purpose other than taking notes or doing research for this course, you will be asked to put your laptop away. You will be asked to turn off your phones and put them away before every class. Those who use their laptops and phones to distract themselves and others around them will be required to meet with me after class to review this policy. If I find a chronic problem with misuse of laptops, the entire class will be asked to revert to pen and paper for note taking.

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 1:00-2:15** 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

Never ask me 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. You may address me in your emails, and in person as Jan, Professor Schroeder, or Dr. Schroeder.

For questions your classmates might be interested in hearing the answers to, please post them on the cuLearn "Discussion Board." That way, I can answer it once, for everyone.

Carleton University Policies

Completion of Course

Take careful note of [Section 2.1](#) of the Academic Regulations in the Undergraduate Calendar: "To obtain credit in a course, students must meet all the course requirements for attendance, term work, and examinations 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 the work of others as one's own. Acts of academic fraud include the following:

- 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, quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgement in an essay or assignment;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another's work, 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 can't be resolved directly with 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, suspension from a program, suspension from the university, or even expulsion from the university.

It is your responsibility to know what constitutes academic fraud: for more information, see [Section 12](#) of the Academic Regulations described in the Undergraduate Calendar and Carleton's [Academic Integrity Policy](#).

SUPPORT SERVICES & ACCOMMODATIONS

Writing Tutorial Service (WTS): The [WTS](#) offers students one-on-one, personalized assistance with academic writing, free of charge. To make an appointment for a 50-minute session, call 613-520-2600, ext. 1125, or visit in person at the Learning Support Services Desk on the 4th floor of the MacOdrum Library.

Learning Support Services (LSS): LSS offers students a variety of free services, including academic skills workshops and information sessions, and individualized assistance in the form of a tutor referral service and a supportive staff of Peer Helpers. To learn more about these services, visit LSS on the 4th floor of the MacOdrum library, contact them by phone at (613) 520-2600, x.1125, or visit [online](#).

Foot Patrol: The Foot Patrol is a student-run, volunteer-based service available to Carleton students, free of charge. Its patrollers will escort you safely to your destination, whether on or off

campus (provided that it is within 30-minutes' walking distance of campus). For more information, visit [online](#). To register for a Safe-Walk, call 613-520-4066 or visit in person at 426 UC.

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.

Accommodations: 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).

Reading and Assignment Schedule

January 9

Orientation

January 11

Course introduction

January 16

Intro to Sherlock Holmes

“A Scandal in Bohemia”

January 18

Conan Doyle, “A Scandal in Bohemia”

+ *Sherlock*, “A Scandal in Scarlet”

January 23

Conan Doyle, "The Man with the Twisted Lip"
Sherlock Reading quiz

January 25

Sherlock Holmes Show and Tell
Sherlock Critical Commentaries due

January 30

Brontë, *Jane Eyre*

February 1

Jane Eyre

February 6

Jane Eyre
Reading quiz
+ film adaptations of *Jane Eyre* (various; TBA)

February 8

Jane Eyre Show and Tell

February 13

Rhys, *Wide Sargasso Sea*

February 15

Wide Sargasso Sea
Critical commentaries on *Jane Eyre* and/or *Wide Sargasso Sea* due

February 20

Winter break

February 22

Winter break

February 27

Stoker, *Dracula*

March 1

Dracula

March 6

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

March 8

Dracula Show and Tell
Dracula commentaries due

March 13

Wells, *The Time Machine*

March 15

The Time Machine

March 20

The Time Machine

Reading quiz

+ film adaptation TBA

March 22

Time Machine Show and Tell

Time Machine commentaries due

March 27

Stevenson, *Jekyll and Hyde*

March 29

Jekyll and Hyde

April 3

Jekyll and Hyde

Reading quiz

+film adaptation TBA

April 5

Jekyll and Hyde

Jekyll and Hyde Show and Tell

Jekyll and Hyde commentaries due

April 10

Review

Introductions to your Critical Commentaries due between **April 10 and April 13 at 4:00 p.m.**