

## Course **Syllabus**

What you will learn in this course

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### **Gothic Literature: Monster Stories**

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It was a dark and stormy night, and the vampires, ghouls, and undead were on the prowl... Gothic Literature is riddled with the spooky, but did you know that this genre is so much more than a scary form of entertainment? In Gothic Literature, you'll learn about how some of the world's greatest authors from the 19th century through today used Gothic elements to tackle issues that needed serious attention: the class system, gender norms, racism, social injustice, and more! Grab your monster gear and explore why Gothic literature has retained its appeal even with today's audiences.

### **Unit 1: Gothica: When Gruesome is Delicious**

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In this unit, we'll explore the classic elements of Gothic literature, from the terror it induces in its characters and readers to the literary devices its writers use to create a sense of the macabre. To fully appreciate the Gothic genre, it's important to understand its place in history and society,

which then led writers to adopt this particularly gruesome style of storytelling. It's also critical that readers master the vocabulary of Gothic writing and learn to recognize common themes in this genre. Finally, we'll analyze two examples of Gothic literature through our examination of a poem and a short story that were written in the Gothic style.

## What will you learn in this unit?

1. Recognize the historical period in which **Gothic** literature first flourished
2. Explore common elements and themes that define the **Gothic** style of writing
3. Differentiate between horror and terror as used in **Gothic** literature
4. Examine which literary devices **Gothic** writers employ to create mood
5. Analyze elements of **Gothic** literature using a sample poem and short story

<b>UNIT 1 Assignments</b>	
<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Type</b>
Unit 1 Critical Thinking Questions	Homework
Unit 1 Activity 1	Homework
Unit 1 Activity 2	Homework
Unit 1 Discussion 1	Discussion
Unit 1 Discussion 2	Discussion
Unit 1 Quiz	Quiz

## Unit 2: With Great Power Comes Great Responsibility

Gothic writers invent a host of characters in their works, most of whom struggle to engage “normally” in polite society. The typical Gothic protagonist faces their own demons while they search for peace among the living or the dead. This unit explores the madness within each human being as we examine characters who represent the best and the worst versions of humanity. You'll read the Greek myth “Prometheus” and excerpts from Mary Shelley's classic novel *Frankenstein*. You'll also see how modern storytellers address the traits that make us human.

## What will you learn in this unit?

1. Differentiate between how genetic and environmental factors impact human character development
2. Describe the ways in which the Greek myth “Prometheus” challenges faith-based beliefs about the creation of humans
3. Explore how **Gothic** writer Mary Shelley examines our attraction to the superficial beauty in others
4. Recognize current and competing interpretations of the story of Frankenstein's monster

UNIT 2 Assignments	
Assignment	Type
Unit 2 Critical Thinking Questions	Homework
Unit 2 Activity 1	Homework
Unit 2 Activity 2	Homework
Unit 2 Activity 3	Homework
Unit 2 Discussion 1	Discussion
Unit 2 Discussion 2	Discussion
Unit 2 Quiz	Quiz

## Unit 3: To Thine Own Self Be True

In this unit, we explore the “duality of man,” a common Gothic theme. Specifically, we’ll look at how Robert Louis Stevenson’s novella, *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* (hereinafter referred to as *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*), examines the conflict between good and evil that lies within each of us. In addition, we’ll consider more current works that address this theme, paying particular attention to how storytellers use setting to intensify the impact of their work.

## What will you learn in this unit?

1. Determine how the Christian church’s teaching during the Victorian Age created unattainable standards for members of society
2. Assess how writers expanded on traditional **Gothic** settings to increase the sense of terror their readers experience

3. Analyze human beings' internal conflict between good and evil, or man's dual nature
4. Discuss how Sigmund Freud's theories on human behavior provide a foundation for modern storytellers of terror

<b>UNIT 3 Assignments</b>	
<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Type</b>
Unit 3 Critical Thinking Questions	Homework
Unit 3 Activity 1	Homework
Unit 3 Activity 2	Homework
Unit 3 Discussion 1	Discussion
Unit 3 Discussion 2	Discussion
Unit 3 Quiz	Quiz

## **Unit 4: Gothic Themes and Bram Stoker's *Dracula***

In this unit, we'll study how Gothic writer Bram Stoker explored themes related to female stereotypes during the Victorian Era. Specifically, we'll look at his vampiric novel, *Dracula*, and how it challenges readers to see the natural inconsistencies between traditional and modern gender roles. Through the study of *Dracula*, we will also examine life as a reflection of art as well as the conflict between religion and science.

### **What will you learn in this unit?**

1. Discuss how **Gothic** writers influenced attitudes about gender roles and gender stereotypes
2. Examine the ways in which Bram Stoker's *Dracula* creates a clash between traditional and modern values
3. Identify examples in modern vampiric literature of the conflict between religion and science
4. Explore the popularity of the vampire genre in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries

<b>UNIT 4 Assignments</b>	
<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Type</b>

Unit 4 Critical Thinking Questions	Homework
Unit 4 Activity 1	Homework
Unit 4 Activity 2	Homework
Unit 4 Discussion 1	Discussion
Unit 4 Discussion 2	Discussion
Unit 4 Quiz	Quiz

## Gothic Literature Midterm Exam

- Review information acquired and mastered from this course up to this point.
- Take a course exam based on material from the **first** half of the course (Note: You will be able to open this exam only one time.)

<b>MIDTERM</b> Assignments	
Assignment	Type
Midterm Exam	Exam
Midterm Discussion	Discussion

## Unit 5: Gothic Short Stories

In this unit, we explore the Gothic short story, both those written during the Victorian era and those written in the United States during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Specifically, we will examine the differences between Gothic short stories and novels, and the differences between English and American Gothic stories. We will also examine several examples of popular Gothic short stories as well as brief biographies of their authors, including the famous American writer Edgar Allan Poe.

### What will you learn in this unit?

1. Explain how **Gothic** short stories differ from **Gothic** novels and novellas
2. Identify events from Edgar Allan Poe's life that influenced his short stories
3. Analyze "The Tell-Tale Heart" and Poe's exploration of personal guilt

4. Differentiate between American Southern **Gothic** literature and traditional Victorian era **Gothic** literature

## UNIT 5 Assignments

Assignment	Type
Unit 5 Critical Thinking Questions	Homework
Unit 5 Activity 1	Homework
Unit 5 Activity 2	Homework
Unit 5 Discussion 1	Discussion
Unit 5 Discussion 2	Discussion
Unit 5 Quiz	Quiz

## Unit 6: Gothic Poetry: Love from Beyond the Grave

In this unit, we will explore the world of Gothic poetry and the ways in which it resembles Gothic novels and short stories, as well as the ways in which it differs. In particular, we'll study the recurring theme of unrequited love and love affairs with the dearly departed. You'll be introduced to the poetry of Gothic writers you are familiar with, like Edgar Allan Poe and Emily Dickinson, but we'll add poems to your library by pioneers in this genre, like Gottfried Bürger and Christina Rossetti.

### What will you learn in this unit?

1. Develop critical reading skills used to analyze **Gothic** poetry
2. Recognize the roots of **Gothic** poetry in Gottfried Bürger's "Lenore" and Samuel Taylor Coleridge's "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner"
3. Examine the poetry of Robert Browning and Christina Rossetti as they relate to other forms of Victorian **Gothic** literature
4. Explore the works of American **Gothic** poets Edgar Allan Poe and Emily Dickinson

## UNIT 6 Assignments

Assignment	Type
Unit 6 Critical Thinking Questions	Homework
Unit 6 Activity 1	Homework
Unit 6 Activity 2	Homework
Unit 6 Discussion 1	Discussion
Unit 6 Discussion 2	Discussion
Unit 6 Quiz	Quiz

## Unit 7: A New Identity for the Gothic Genre

In this unit, you'll look at how Gothic literature has evolved since it was first popularized during the Victorian Era, and more importantly, we'll revisit how modern Gothic writers use traditional Gothic themes to challenge social justice issues. Specifically, you'll study twentieth-century Gothic novels by Black women writers, mystery and detective stories that apply Gothic elements, and psychological thrillers, both in novels and film. Through this study of more recent stories, you'll increase your appreciation for the appeal of the Gothic genre to modern audiences.

### What will you learn in this unit?

1. Explain how **Gothic** writers use their stories to challenge social justice issues related to discrimination and class conflict
2. Analyze the works of African American women writers who use the **Gothic** genre to explore racial injustice in society
3. Apply the **Gothic** style of writing to mystery and detective stories
4. Connect the **Gothic** genre to novels and films that are categorized as psychological thrillers

UNIT 7 Assignments	
Assignment	Type
Unit 7 Critical Thinking Questions	Homework
Unit 7 Activity 1	Homework
Unit 7 Activity 2	Homework

Unit 7 Discussion 1	Discussion
Unit 7 Discussion 2	Discussion
Unit 7 Quiz	Quiz

## Unit 8: A New Era of Gothic Fiction

In this unit, we look at the appeal of Gothic themes in the twenty-first century. Specifically, we delve into how Gothic writers have widened their influence, both in the audiences they attract and the social issues they explore. To this end, we meet apocalyptic zombies as well as a new breed of vampires, and we consider how these creatures force us to reexamine society's ever-present conflict between the "haves" and the "have nots."

### What will you learn in this unit?

1. Identify elements of **Gothic** works that occur through the past two centuries
2. Compare and contrast nineteenth and twenty-first century vampires in **Gothic** literature
3. Analyze the way in which racism is depicted in twenty-first century **Gothic** fiction
4. Examine the use of zombies and apocalyptic settings as symbols of societal distress

UNIT 8 Assignments	
Assignment	Type
Unit 8 Critical Thinking Questions	Homework
Unit 8 Activity 1	Homework
Unit 8 Activity 2	Homework
Unit 8 Discussion 1	Discussion
Unit 8 Discussion 2	Discussion
Unit 8 Quiz	Quiz

## Gothic Literature Final Exam

- Review information acquired and mastered from this course up to this point.
- Take a course exam based on material from the **second** half of the course (Note: You will be able to open this exam only one time.)



<b>FINAL Assignments</b>	
<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Type</b>
Final Exam	Exam
Final Discussion	Discussion

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