



British Hauntings

BELMONT: HON 2120 Honors Humanities Seminar, 3 credit hours

UNIVERSITY OF EVANSVILLE: ENGL 330 Special Topics in Literature, 3 credit hours

Spring 2025

Instructor	Prof. Douglas Murray	Phone	615-838-8710
Office Location	Confer with me via email or in person for a meeting location.	Email	Doug.murray@belmont.edu
Course Meeting Days and Time	TTh, 1-2:15am	Student Drop-In Office Hours	9-12 TTh
Required Experiential Learning Dates	24 January (Lincoln—haunted walking tour), 11 April (Chatsworth and Eyam village) Recommended: 25 January (Nottingham—National Justice Museum)		

Course Information

The lonely manor house. The forgotten battlefield. The crumbling tower. The country cemetery. If you believe the stories, Britain is full of haunted places. But why is this the case? What's haunting Britain? In literature and art, ghosts appear as afterimages of an unresolved past: hidden torment or unsettled injustice. Don't look back. In this class, we will investigate how ghosts in British literature, film, television, and art conceal cultural traumas in plain sight. We will encounter hauntings from Shakespeare to Sherlock that illuminate feudal strife, family dysfunction, imperial oppression, industrialist exploitation, feminist struggles, and the anxieties of our technological future. Along the way, we will visit investigate Harlaxton Manor, visit haunted locations, watch live theatre, converse with guest lecturers, and reflect on the ghosts that haunt us today. Readings will be both creepy and comical, including a Thomas Gray's "Elegy written in a Country Churchyard," Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, Oscar Wilde's "The Canterville Ghost," Daphne Du Maurier's *Rebecca*, the television show *Black Mirror*, and more. Assignments include an interactive look at Harlaxton's history, exploratory essays, and reflections. Some assignments will include options for audio or video recordings instead of written work. Ultimately, this class will help you examine our responsibilities to the "ghosts" in our past and present as we discover what it means to live in a haunted world.

Like all English classes, this class may sometimes include sensitive material on race, gender, sexuality, religion, and other topics. Please email me early in the semester if you need special considerations or would like to have a conversation with me regarding these or other topics.

Catalog Description:

BELMONT: As an Honors designated course, Honors Humanities Seminar will focus on a humanities-based topic or theme in a manner that: engages students in interdisciplinary thinking, which values diversity and global awareness; fosters creativity and critical thinking; and develops their skills as writers, researchers and leaders. Specific topic and course titles will vary with each offering.

UNIVERSITY OF EVANSVILLE: Focuses on particular writers or a particular literary movement, subject or period. Past topics have included Fitzgerald and Hemingway, Modern Irish Literature, and JRR Tolkien. Repeatable up to three times with different subject. Prerequisite: Complete one ENGL course or permission of instructor.

Credit Hour Policy Statement:

Combination of standard lecture and other academic activities:

“This class meets the federal credit hour policy through a combination of lecture + laboratory (or lecture + practicum) for a total of 45-75 hours of supervised learning activities for each credit.” (Def 1 & 2)

General Education Requirements:

[**Required if applicable.** List which general education outcomes are met by the course if applicable. Delete section if not relevant.]

Course Learning Outcomes:

This course is designed to **introduce students to British history and culture** and give student space to **reflect on their experiences while at Harlaxton**. In order to accomplish these two important goals, students will:

- Identify cultural elements of British literature, film/television, and art, including feudalism, imperialism, industrialism/capitalism, feminism, and technology, with a focus on ghosts/haunting
- Explore the history of Britain from 1534-2024
- Critically analyze literature, film/television, and art through writing, discussion, and creative engagement (drawing, acting, walking, etc.)
- Reflect on what it means to live in a “haunted” world, including identifying their responsibilities to the “ghosts” of the past and present

Program Learning Outcomes:

[**Required if applicable.** Program learning outcomes articulate the competencies, knowledge, and skills students develop upon completion of a program leading to a degree, certificate, or other credential.]

Required Materials:

- Shakespeare, *Macbeth*
- Thomas Gray, “Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard” (Online)
- Daphne Du Maurier, *Rebecca*
- Oscar Wilde, “The Canterville Ghost” (Online)
- Hound of the Baskervilles (TV show and Novel)
- Short stories by Dickens, Wilkie Collins, Elizabeth Bowen and other authors
- A few theoretical terms and readings: Derrida’s “Hauntology” Jeffrey Jerome Cohen, “Monster Culture (Seven Theses)”
- Live theatre and site visits are also considered “required reading” for the course

Methods of Instructions:

In person instruction will consist of lectures, small group discussion, and guest lectures. In addition, please expect some field trips, videos, and interactive creative engagement (such as drawing, acting, joining archeological digs, walking, and conversing with people outside of class).

Withdrawal and Attendance policies:

Harlaxton College expects regular class attendance by all students. Students are considered sufficiently mature to appreciate the necessity of regular and punctual attendance, to accept this personal responsibility and to accept the consequences of failure to attend. When absences occur due to emergency or medical reasons, students are expected to notify their instructors of the absence prior to class or to seek the assistance of the College nurse or a member of the Student Experience Team for help in notifying instructors.

Instructors have the authority to grant excused absences for medical, psychological, or personal reasons upon review of appropriate documentation and professional recommendation supporting such a request. In the event of long-term illness, reasonable accommodations will be made to allow a student to complete a course. In these cases, the Dean will need to approve the long term nature of the accommodation.

The Dean of Harlaxton College has the authority to grant excused absences for medical, psychological, or personal reasons.

Each instructor is expected to maintain an attendance policy in keeping with the nature of the Harlaxton program and may consider it in evaluating performance in their courses.

Grading Criteria:

Assignments

A **commonplace book** gives you space to reflect on and engage the course material. Unlike a journal, which is a personal reflection, a commonplace book invites you to digest outside information, like readings, experiences, and conversations. These will be due most weeks and can be turned in as a video, audio, or writing, and you can skip **one**. In addition, I'll invite you to post your class notes, which will help you organize your thoughts for our final.. In keeping with our attendance policy, you may skip notes on two days.

You'll be asked three times during the semester to formally engage in a topic from this class in an assignment called **Course Response**. I will provide a list of possible Course Responses you can choose from including literary analyses, ethnography, creative responses, and others. At least one Course Response **MUST** be a literary analysis of a work we have read this semester.

A **Final Exam and Reflective Project** will help you metabolize and reflect on the work you've accomplished throughout the semester.

Commonplace Book	25%
Course Response x 3 (15% each)	45%
Class Notes	10%
Final Exam	15%
Reflective Project	5%

Commonplace books and class notes are graded on good faith effort—if they have been done to the best of your ability, they will receive full credit/100%. If they have not been fully completed or demonstrate inadequate knowledge of the text, they will receive lower scores.

I will hand out a grading rubric for formal assignments, and we will discuss it in class. All essays are graded on a 100-point scale, with the grade conversion as follows:

Grade	Minimum	A	93.0	
	A+	100.0	A-	90.0

B+ 87.0

B 83

B- 80.0

C+ 77.0

C 73.0

C- 70.0

D+ 67.0

D 63.0

D- 60.0

F 59.9 and below.

In general, I only “round up” final grades if a student has shown a clear desire to learn and engagement in the class through coming to most classes and doing all required work. Otherwise, students are assigned the grade they earned.

Honor Code:

All students at the University of Evansville agree to the University honor code: *I will neither give nor receive unauthorized aid, nor will I tolerate an environment that condones the use of unauthorized aid.*

Course AI Policy:

In this course, submission of any work that is not entirely your own is considered academic dishonesty. The use of generative AI tools such as ChatGPT are prohibited and constitute a violation of academic integrity as examples of unauthorized aid.

In this course, submission of any work that is not entirely your own is considered academic dishonesty unless otherwise specified. This means that the use of generative AI tools is prohibited, except for certain assignments for which you are given specific guidelines and examples of appropriate AI use. When permitted, you must clearly identify and cite the AI tools used. Submitting AI-generated work as your own constitutes a violation of academic integrity as an example of unauthorized aid.

Course Schedule:

Please see Blackboard for most recent schedule.

University Policy Statements

Disability Policy:

The University of Evansville is committed to providing an accessible and supportive environment for students with disabilities. It is the policy and practice of the University of Evansville to make reasonable accommodations for students with properly documented disabilities. Students should contact Disability Services at 812-488-2663 to seek services or accommodations for disabilities. Written notification to faculty from Disability Services is required for academic accommodations.

Institutional Equity and Title IX

UE is committed to fostering an atmosphere free from harassment and creating an inclusive campus for all members of the University community regardless of their sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, race, religion, ethnicity, country of origin, ability, or veteran status. All Faculty members are considered Responsible Employees and required to report instances of discrimination, harassment, or sexual violence to the Office of Institutional Equity

You may also choose to speak to a Confidential Resource about your experience. Confidential Resources at the University include:

Counseling Services: 812-488-2663, counselingservices@evansville.edu

Crayton E. and Ellen Mann Health Center: 812-488-2033, healthcenter@evansville.edu

Spiritual Formation Coordinator: 812- 488-5265, spiritualformation@evansville.edu

If you or someone you know has been harassed, assaulted, or discriminated against you can find the appropriate resources by contacting the Assistant Director of Institutional Equity and Title IX Coordinator: email titleix@evansville.edu ; phone (812) 488-5261. For more information visit <https://www.evansville.edu/offices/titleix/policy.cfm> .

Non-discrimination Statement

The University of Evansville expects all members of its community to treat each other with respect and civility. Harassing behaviors directed towards any member of our community will not be tolerated. As part of its commitment to non-discrimination, the University specifically prohibits harassment based on any other characteristics set forth in its nondiscrimination statement as follows: including race, color, gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, creed or religion, national origin, age, disability, veteran status and all federally protected groups/classes. Any form of harassment undermines the mission of the University and negatively impacts the University community as a whole. For more information contact the [Center for Inclusive Excellence](#).

Campus Safety

All members of the UE community are automatically enrolled in the Ace Alerts Emergency Alert System. When the system is activated, emergency notification information is sent in the following manner: calls to campus IP phones, text messages, emails, campus housing speaker system, active threat sirens (non-weather related), digital signage, and AlertUS desktop on campus-owned computers.

To contact the Office of Public Safety:

Emergencies: 812-488-6911

Non-emergencies: 812-488-2051

Complaints, Grievances, and Appeals

The University of Evansville seeks to resolve all student concerns in a timely and effective manner through policies and processes documented in the University [Course Catalog](#) and [Student Handbook](#).

Student Resources

Access the links below to connect with departments and resources that are here to support all UE students.

Academic Services: Contact the Center for Academic Advising to connect with academic support services including supplemental instruction, tutoring, and time management and study skills help.

Blackboard Guides: Blackboard is the University of Evansville's course management system for online courses. Guides on using Blackboard can be found within [MyUE](#).

Writing Center : The Writing Center provides access to writing resources, appointments for one-on-one writing help, and assistance with any stage of the writing process.

Counseling Services: Counseling Services provides general, short-term counseling that assists students in identifying barriers and setting goals while improving coping strategies to achieve personal and academic goals.

University Libraries: Conduct research, access resources, and contact librarians for any research related help. Also ask the instructor, who loves research projects.