Victorian Gothic

ENGL 330: Special Topics in Literature: Victorian Gothic, Summer 1 2025

Instructor	Sara Petrosillo	**Phone**	
Office Location		**Email**	Sp220@EVANSVILLE.EDU
Course Meeting Days and Time	Monday, Wednesday AM	**Student Drop-In Office Hours**	By appointment
Course Mode	In-person		

Course Information

Course Description:

This seminar will start with an overview of Gothic in literature and how it changes over time. Although Gothic literature started in 1764, it will focus on the reign of Queen Victoria (1837-1901), a period which sees the rise and decline of the British Empire. It is a reign associated with double morality, ghosts, decadence, degeneration, invasion narratives, sexuality, and spaces. London grew by 90% in the XIX century and brought with it poverty, disease and corruption. However, there will also be a focus on regional and women's literature, specifically the Brontë sisters. These issues are all reflected in literature; thus, the seminar will have a socio-historical focus which will tie in with the Gothic. Vampires, ghosts and doubles will be the main focus.

Credit Hour Policy Statement:

**** ACTION: **Required.** Choose the credit hour policy in which this course meets. Delete all other options listed and only include the text in quotation marks.*

Standard lecture: "This class meets the federal credit hour policy of 1 hour of class with an expected 2 hours of additional student work outside of class each week for approximately 15 weeks for each hour of credit, or a total of 45-75 total hours for each credit." (Def 1)

Course Learning Outcomes:
• Students will acquire and use a basic vocabulary appropriate to literary studies.
• Students will acquire and use a basic vocabulary of literary criticism.
• Students will analyze and interpret literary texts in four genres.
• Students will refine their writing practices in the discipline.
• Students will present and discuss their literary interpretations.

Program Learning Outcomes:
Students will discuss (orally and/or in writing) works of literature in their literary, historical, or critical contexts. Students will explicate literary texts closely and accurately, showing familiarity with form and content as well as with literary terms appropriate to the field.

Required Materials:
1. *Wuthering Heights,* by Emily Bronte, 1847 (paperback novel)
2. *Three Ghost Stories* by Charles Dickens, 1859-1866 (provided PDF of short stories)
3. *Carmilla* by Sheridan La Fanu, 1872 (paperback novel)

4. *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* by Robert Louis Stevenson, 1886 (paperback novella or provided pdf)
5. *The Great God Pan* by Arthur Machen, 1894 (paperback novella or provided PDF)
6. *Turn of the Screw* by Henry James, 1898 (paperback novella or provided PDF)

Methods of Instructions:

I will introduce new texts, genres, and writing strategies with lectures. Once we delve into the text or genre, we will engage in small and large group discussions and writing activities. I expect you to come to class having completed the reading listed for that day, prepared to take paper notes, and prepared to discuss and question the reading

Withdrawal and Attendance policies:

Harlaxton College operates a mandatory attendance policy that is binding on all faculty and students.
Because of the amount of material covered, it is in your best interest to attend all classes. Because this is a condensed 5-week semester, only 1 absence will be permitted before the penalty of one full letter grade (e.g., A to B) per absence begins. Additional unexcused absences will attract a grade penalty per absence. Please note: travel or unexpected delays returning from travel are not excused absences.
Students are responsible for the academic consequences of their failure to attend class. If any assessment (e.g. in-class test, exam, paper, presentation, etc.) is missed, there is no expectation or requirement that a faculty member will accept the work after it is due, provide an extension to a deadline, or offer an alternative assessment opportunity for a student with an unexcused absence.

Grading Criteria:

Anatomy of a Scene assignment – 15%
Commonplace book- 40%
4–5-page essay/project on space and place- 20%
Penny dreadful poster presentation- 20%
Final exam: Harlaxton haunting letter- 5%

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.* Unauthorized aid includes but is not limited to: collaborating with a peer for an individual assignment; using online resources (ChatGPT or any other AI (see below), Coursehero, Sparknotes, Google Books, Bookrags, any website.) when not instructed to do so; using ideas and/or language of someone other than yourself when not instructed to do so and/or without attributing the source correctly and appropriately. Sharing course materials (in person or online) including your own assignments is also a violation of the honor code. Ignorance is not an excuse for breaching the honor code; come talk to me to clarify any questions about what is considered unauthorized aid **before** submitting your work. Any work that demonstrates the usage of unauthorized aid will be reported to the Dean of Students. Review the student handbook for further information regarding the consequences of breaching the honor code.

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. Besides ChatGPT, other prohibited AI generators include but are not limited to Grammarly, Claude, Gemini, and any others not listed here including any translating tool. Using generative AI is plagiarism and will be reported to the Dean of Student's Office and result in a minimum of a zero grade on the assignment and possible further consequences depending on pages 18-21 in the Student Handbook.

Course Schedule:

Week 1:
Wednesday, June 11
Read in class: *Three Ghost Stories* by Charles Dickens, 1859-1866
Thursday, June 12 (Memoir)
Read before class: *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* by Robert Louis Stevenson, 1886
In class: watch **Nightmare: Birth of Horror - Jekyll and Hyde (BBC 1996)**
Friday, June 13: Experiential Learning in London (Charles Dickens House, Old Operating Theatre, and Ghost Bus Tour)

Week 2:
Monday, June 16
Submit: Commonplace book for week 1
Read before class: *The Great God Pan* by Arthur Machen, 1894
In class: Watch *Pan's Labyrinth* (2006)
Wednesday, June 18
Read before class: Penny Dreadful story
Submit: Penny Dreadful poster presentation
Thursday, June 19: Experiential Learning in London (Museum of Curiosities and London Dungeon)

Week 3:
Monday, June 23
Submit: Commonplace book for week 2
Read before class: *Carmilla* by Sheridan La Fanu, 1872
In class: Watch *Carmilla* (2019)
Tuesday, June 24 Experiential Learning at Hampton Court Palace
Wednesday, June 25
Read before class: *The Turn of the Screw* by Henry James, 1898
In-class: Watch *The Turn of the Screw* (2009)

Week 4:
Monday, June 30
Submit: Commonplace book for week 3
Read before class: *Wuthering Heights,* by Emily Bronte, 1847 (Part 1)
In class: work on Space and Place essay (outline/draft due)
In class: Watch *Wuthering Heights* (1939)
Wednesday, July 2
Submit: Space and Place project/essay
Read before class: *Wuthering Heights,* by Emily Bronte, 1847 (Part 2)
In class: Watch *Emily* (2022)
Thursday, July 3: Experiential Learning Trip at Haworth (Steam Train and Bronte Parsonage Museum)

Week 5:
Monday, July 7:
Submit: Commonplace book for week 4
Submit: Anatomy of a Scene assignment– screen & present to class
Final exam (during class): Harlaxton haunting letter

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.