

Syllabus for ENG 210 -- Approaches to Literature

Missouri Western State University
Department of English, Foreign Languages, Journalism
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
English 210-02 -- Approaches to Literature: Monsters in Literature
Instructor: Dawn Terrick
Spring 2008
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Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 1:00-3:00, Monday 11:00-12:00 and by appointment
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Required Texts:

Frankenstein, Mary Shelley
Dracula by Bram Stoker (unabridged)
Goblin Market and Other Poems, Christina Rossetti
The Picture of Dorian Gray, Oscar Wilde
Lois the Witch, Elizabeth Gaskell
Interview With the Vampire, Anne Rice

Ghost stories (on reserve in the library)

“The Old Nurse’s Story” by Elizabeth Gaskell and “John Charrington’s Wedding” by E. Nesbit

* We will also be viewing films. I may also supplement these texts and films with poems and short stories that will be available on reserve in the library or through handouts in class.

* This class consists of extensive reading. In order to succeed in this course, you *must* keep up with the reading.

* It is vital to have a folder and/or notebook to keep all notes/handouts/work.

Recommended Materials:

- A writing handbook or style guide of your choice
- Computer disks/jump drives for revising and saving work

Course Description:

ENG 210: Approaches to Literature -- Monsters in Literature

In this course we will read a variety of texts, from classical literature to contemporary popular literature, and examine the role of the monster in these works. We will discover how the figure of the monster, the evil, strange or grotesque figure, both reflects and affects the culture in which it was written. What can we learn about ourselves and our culture by analyzing this fiction? What does the monster represent or symbolize to its author and to its readers? We will read and discuss works ranging from Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein* to Anne Rice’s *Interview With the Vampire*. Assignments will involve extensive reading, research, oral presentations and papers that explore and analyze literature. English 210 fulfills Category IV General Studies requirement.

• “It is becoming increasingly clear that the concept of evil is at one with the category of Otherness itself: evil characterizes whatever is radically different from me. So from earliest times, the stranger from another time, the barbarian . . . or in our own day, the avenger of cumulated resentments from some oppressed class, or else that alien being – these are some of the figures in which the fundamental identity of the representative of Evil and the Other are visible. The point, however, is not that in such figures the Other is feared because he is evil; rather he is evil because he is Other, alien, different, strange . . .”

-Frederic Jameson

• “The popular imagination is far more likely to give birth to flamboyantly unrealistic characters . . . than to ‘typical’ human beings.”

-Burton Hatlen

Course Goals and Objectives:

Upon completion of English 210, you will have demonstrated the ability to:

1. Recognize the major characteristics of literary genres
2. Discuss literature, orally and in writing, with assurance
3. Understand the different ways in which literary theme may be treated in literature

In order to reach these goals you will:

1. Read poetry, fiction, and drama
2. Investigate various methods of approaching and understanding literature

3. Write papers on literature
4. Read a variety of literary works in which a chosen theme is dominant

For common objectives/means and institutional competencies for English 210, also refer to the English department website at <http://www.missouriwestern.edu/EFLJ/eng210.asp>

Methods of Instruction:

Methods of instruction include texts, lectures, class discussions (very important), group work, oral presentations by students, quizzes, examinations, and informal and formal writing assignments.

Policies:

Attendance and Class Preparation/Participation: In order to improve student learning and to achieve compliance with federal financial aid policies, Western has a mandatory attendance policy for all 100 and 200 level courses. A student will be given an excused absence when acting as an official representative of the university, provided the student gives prior written verification from the faculty/staff supervisor of the event. All other absences will be deemed unexcused unless you can provide a valid, documented and unavoidable reason. *The maximum number of absences allowed before the midterm report, March 19, for this class is three (3).* Thus, when you have four (4) you will be reported to the Registrar's Office, who will automatically withdraw you from this class. The Financial Aid Office will reduce financial aid as appropriate. If you know of any circumstances likely to make this policy difficult for you this semester, you may wish to consult with your advisor to review your options. If you violate the attendance policy after the midterm mark, your grade will likely be affected. If you miss a class session, you are responsible for all material covered and assignments given during your absence. All out-of-class assignments are due at the beginning of the class period. Students are expected to attend every scheduled class meeting. Also, arriving to class late is disruptive. As a result, chronic lateness will likely affect your final grade. Students are also expected to come prepared to every class meeting and participate in class discussion for this is the only way we can all share ideas, ask questions and learn.

Late Work: All assignments are due at the beginning of the class period on the due date. If you are not in class on the due date you are still responsible for submitting your assignment on time. Oral presentations must be presented on the due date – no exceptions. Late quizzes and in-class writing assignments will not be accepted. In regard to your writing assignments, each student is allowed one late writing assignment (and only one late writing assignment) and this must be discussed with the instructor. I will not accept/grade any other late writing assignments. This is important because you must complete, turn in and receive a grade for all assignments in order to pass this class. In other words, a second late paper will result in failure of the course.

Students with Disabilities: Any student in this course who has a disability that prevents the fullest expressions of abilities should contact Missouri Western's special needs coordinator, Michael Ritter, for possible certification of special needs and expert recommendations for assistance. You should also contact me personally as soon as possible so that we can discuss class requirements.

Grading: Your final grade will be based upon two formal writing assignments, an oral presentation, midterm and final examinations, various in-class exercises and quizzes, class preparation and participation. Please remember that smaller assignments and class participation are very important and do affect your grade.

- Formal Writing Assignments (**Discuss option to revise)
 - Literary Analysis #1: 100 points
 - Creative Writing #2: 100 points
- Oral Presentation: 100 points
- Midterm and Final Examination: 100 points each (total 200 points)
- In-Class Quizzes: 100 points

Academic Honesty Policy: Academic honesty is required in all academic endeavors. Violations of academic honesty include any instance of plagiarism, cheating, seeking credit for another's work, falsifying documents or academic records or any other fraudulent classroom activity. Cheating and plagiarism are not acceptable. You will receive a grade of F (0 points) for any paper/assignment/exam that shows evidence of cheating and/or plagiarism. You have the burden of proving that a paper/assignment/exam showing evidence of cheating and/or plagiarism has been in fact written by you. You should keep thorough evidence of your writing processes for all papers so that you can meet this burden of proof. If you plagiarize a paper, you forfeit the right to revise that paper; if you cheat on an exam, you will not be allowed to retake the exam. Violations of academic honesty will be reported to the Provost or the designated representative on the Academic Honesty Violation Report Forms. Please see the Student Handbook and Calendar on page 21 for specific activities identified as violations of this policy and the student due process procedure. This handbook is also available online at <http://www.missouriwestern.edu/handbook/index.pdf>.

Civility and Cooperation: Missouri Western requires all students to help us maintain good conditions for teaching and learning. All students will treat their classmates and teachers with civility and respect, both inside and outside the classroom. Students who violate this policy may, among other penalties, be counted absent and asked to leave. You should review your Missouri Western student handbook for further information.

Please note that you must complete all major assignments in order to pass this course. In addition, it is vital that you keep up with all reading assignments. All drafts and final papers for this course must be word-processed. It is also important to save all work on disks, keeping back-ups if necessary.

Please feel free to come see me if you have *any* problems or questions. I believe communication is very important between an instructor and her students and, as a result, I will make myself available to you for any reason.

ENG 210 Assignment Schedule

Please note that this is a tentative schedule and changes can be made.

- Week One
- Jan 15: Introduction to course; Review syllabus
HW: Read introduction to *Frankenstein* pp 19-24/25
- Jan. 17: Discussion of literature, literary criticism and the figure of the monster;
Oral presentation assignments
HW: Begin *Frankenstein*: Read through chapter 9
- Week Two
- Jan. 22: Begin discussion of *Frankenstein*: Discuss both the first part of the novel and issues and events that may affect our reading of the novel and the figure of the monster
HW: Read through chapter 20, up to chapter 21 of *Frankenstein*
- Jan. 24: Discuss *Frankenstein* (Chapter 14); Watch video clip; overheads on Gothic text
HW: Be prepared to discuss *Frankenstein* in class on Tuesday
- Week Three
- Jan. 29: Discuss *Frankenstein*; In-class reading and discussion; Watch video clip
HW: Finish reading *Frankenstein*
- Jan. 31: Conclude discussion of *Frankenstein* (and start of movie)
HW: Read the poem of "Goblin Market" and begin reading *Dracula* (*This is important because this novel is long; if you follow the assignment schedule for reading assignments and read approximately 60 pages in each sitting, you will be right on track).
- Week Four
- Feb. 5: **Oral presentation #1 due** as introduction to "Goblin Market"; Discuss "Goblin Market"
HW: Read ghost story on reserve in library
- Feb. 7: Begin discussion on how to write a literary analysis; Distribute and discuss Literary Analysis Assignment; Discuss the Victorian ghost story and story read for homework
HW: **Continue reading *Dracula*
- Week Five
- Feb. 12: ***Oral presentation #2 due** as introduction to *Dracula*; introduction to novel and video/movie clip
In-class readings of other ghost stories
HW: Continue reading *Dracula*
- Feb. 14: Discussion of *Dracula* (be sure to have read up to page 139); video clip
HW: Continue reading *Dracula*
- Week Six
- Feb. 19: Discuss *Dracula* (be sure to have read up to page 258)
HW: Finish reading *Dracula*
- Feb. 21: Conclude discussion of *Dracula*; video clip
- Week Seven
- Feb. 26: Literary Analysis Due This Week (can turn in today or Thursday); Watch movie
- Feb. 28: **Literary Analysis Due!** (can turn in no later than today); Finish watching movie; **Review for Midterm– distribute study guide
HW: Study for midterm!

(continued)

Week Eight

Mar. 4: **Midterm Examination**

HW: Read pp 1-52 of *Dorian Gray*

Mar. 6: **Oral presentation #3 due** as introduction to *The Picture of Dorian Gray*; Begin discussion of *Dorian Gray*; video clip

HW: Finish reading *Dorian Gray* for March 18!

Week Nine Spring Break!

Week Ten

Mar. 18: Conclude discussion of *Dorian Gray*

HW: Begin reading *Lois the Witch*: Read the Foreword and Chapter One (pp vii-21)

Mar. 20: **Oral presentation #4 due**; Begin discussion of *Lois the Witch* (watch video?)

HW: Read Chapter Two (pp 22-48)

Week Eleven

Mar. 25: Discuss *Lois the Witch*

HW: Finish reading *Lois the Witch* -- Read Chapter Three (pp 49-89)

Mar. 27: Discuss *Lois the Witch*; In-class video; Distribute and discuss Paper Assignment

HW: Begin reading *Interview With The Vampire*

Note: March 28 is last day to withdraw from class

Week Twelve

Apr. 1: Watch movie

HW: Read *Interview With the Vampire* up to at least page 95 (go ahead if possible)

Apr. 3: Conclude movie; **Oral presentation #5 due**; Begin discussion of *Interview With the Vampire*

HW: Read *Interview With the Vampire* pp 95-147

Week Thirteen

Apr. 8: Discuss *Interview With the Vampire*

HW: Read *Interview With the Vampire* pp 147-200

Apr. 10: Discuss *Interview With The Vampire*; Discussion of the vampire in popular culture; watch video (vampires)

HW: Read *Interview With the Vampire* pp 200-250

Week Fourteen

Apr. 15: Watch video (vampires); Discuss Paper #2

HW: Finish reading *Interview With the Vampire*

Apr. 17: Conclude discussion of *Interview With the Vampire*

Week Fifteen

Apr. 22: Watch movie; distribute study guide

HW: Complete literary analysis

Apr. 24: Last day of class; Review for final examination; Conclude movie; **Paper Due!**

HW: Study for final examination!

Final Examination Week: April 30-May 6

Final examination for this class is mandatory. Date/time will be announced in class and a study guide will be distributed.