**ENGL 3300: Gothic Literature**

Fall 2015

**Instructor:** Dr. Rechelle Christie

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**Office Hours:** T/TH 1-2pm or by appointment

**Section Information:** ENGL 3300.002

**Time and Place of Class Meetings:** 11am-12:20pm, Thimble Hall 023

**Course prerequisites**: For English majors, ENGL 2350; for non-majors, 6 hours of sophomore literature or 3 hours of sophomore literature with a grade of A.

**Course Description and Learning Outcomes:** This course will explore the cultural significance of Gothic literature and how the texts within the genre create a complex dialogue within cultural and historical contexts.  By the end of the course, students should be able to effectively analyze Gothic texts and articulate both orally and in writing how the Gothic tradition works to reveal cultural anxieties.

***Some words on the Gothic:*** Transforming day into night is the function of the Gothic; it reaches into the shadows of the imagination in order to call into question what is perceived as stable fixed and regulated. While the Gothic is primarily considered a genre of sensation and mere entertainment as it readily provides audiences a means of escaping from reality, scholars in various fields have begun to carefully rethink the purpose and historical function of the Gothic. According to David Punter and Glennis Byron, authors of *The* *Gothic*, the genre provides an available means for speaking the “unspeakable.” Furthermore, they argue, the Gothic “re-emerges with particular force during times of cultural crisis” in order to negotiate the anxieties of an age through displacement (39). By considering the Gothic through Punter and Byron’s conception of the genre, we can begin to explore the Gothic as a form of social critique and public argument. Bram Stoker’s *Dracula*, for example, tells us as much about Victorian England as it does about the supernatural. Contemporary manifestations of the Gothic, such as Stephenie Meyer’s *Twilight* series and film productions like *Underworld*, function similar to Stoker’s text; however, they reveal *current* cultural anxieties and social critiques, as all texts are reflections of the age in which they are produced. While this course primarily investigates Gothic texts produced in the late Victorian age, we will also consider how the Gothic functions in contemporary culture and how we all are personally tied to this unique and enduring genre.

**Required Texts:**

* Riggs, Ransom*. Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children*. Quirk Books, 2013
* Rowlings, J.K. *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*. Scholastic, 2000
* Stevenson, Robert Louis. *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*. Broadview Press, 2015
* Stoker, Bram.  *Dracula*. W.W. Norton & Co., 1996
* Wilde, Oscar. *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. W.W. Norton & Co. 2nd edition, 2006
* Etexts as assigned

*Note about course texts*: Students must read *all* assigned course texts (There will be no substitutions of texts). If a student feels s/he cannot abide by this course policy, s/he should drop the course. It is the student’s responsibility to drop the course on or before the official university drop date. See more about UTA’s drop policy below.

**Attendance:** At The University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required. Rather, each faculty member is free to develop his or her own methods of evaluating students’ academic performance, which includes establishing course-specific policies on attendance. As the instructor of this section, I will take attendance at the beginning of each class meeting. For this reason, please be on time if not early to class. Also, keep in mind that in order to do well students must attend class regularly. Habitual tardiness and/or unexcused absences will impact your performance in the course.

**Grading Policy**:

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| Response Essay 1 | 15% |
| Response Essay 2 | 15% |
| Final Critical Essay | 35% |
| Quizzes | 15% |
| Oral Presentation | 10% |
| Class Participation | 10% |

Essays are out-of-class writing assignments. Quizzes are typically unannounced and given at the beginning of class. Class participation is evaluated on the quality and thoughtfulness of students' in-class responses to course topics and readings.

Students are expected to keep track of their performance throughout the semester and seek guidance from available sources (including the instructor) if their performance drops below satisfactory levels; see “Student Support Services,” below.

**Late Assignments:**  All assignments, essays, quizzes, and exams are due on the specified due date (See the Course Calendar). Except for documented emergencies and university approved absences, late assignments will not be accepted. Students presenting documentation are required to complete assignments in the timeframe prescribed by their instructor.

**Blackboard:** While this course meets twice a week face-to-face, it will also utilize Blackboard for housing important documents (such as the class syllabus, course calendar, and assigned readings) and posting important course announcements. Students will also use Blackboard to submit assignments/essays (All assignments should be submitted **before** class on the specified due date). **Emailed essays and assignments will also not be accepted,** unless permission prior to the due date is granted by the instructor.

**Syllabus and Schedule Changes:** Instructors try to make their syllabuses and course calendars as complete as possible; however, during the course of the semester, they may be required to alter, add, or abandon certain policies, assignments, and/or schedules.  Instructors reserve the right to make such changes as they become necessary.

**Electronic Devices:**  If you choose to use a laptop or an electronic reading device in class, please note that I will check to see if you are on task. Checking email and social networks or engaging in other electronic activities not related to classroom activities will significantly impact your participation grade. Please note that I decide which activities are considered on task.

**Drop Policy:** Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance**. Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://wweb.uta.edu/aao/fao/>).

**Disability Accommodations:** **UT** Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including *The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), The Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act (ADAAA),* and *Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.* All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide “reasonable accommodations” to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of disability. Students are responsible for providing the instructor with official notification in the form of a letter certified by the **Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD).**Students experiencing a range of conditions (Physical, Learning, Chronic Health, Mental Health, and Sensory) that may cause diminished academic performance or other barriers to learning may seek services and/or accommodations by contacting:

**The Office for Students with Disabilities, (OSD)**  [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability) or calling 817-272-3364.

**Counseling and Psychological Services, (CAPS)**   [www.uta.edu/caps/](http://www.uta.edu/caps/) or calling 817-272-3671.

Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability) or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

**Title IX:** *The University of Texas at Arlington does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, disabilities, genetic information, and/or veteran status in its educational programs or activities it operates. For more information, visit*[*uta.edu/eos*](http://www.uta.edu/hr/eos/index.php)*.* *For information regarding Title IX, visit* [www.uta.edu/titleIX](http://www.uta.edu/titleIX).

**Classroom Decorum:** Language that demeans people on the basis of race, religion, ethnicity, gender, sexual preference, or age will **NOT** be tolerated in this class. Students are expected to participate respectfully in class, to listen to other class members, and to comment appropriately. I also expect consideration and courtesy from students. Professors are to be addressed appropriately and communicated with professionally.

According to *Student Conduct and Discipline*, "students are prohibited from engaging in or attempting to engage in conduct, either alone or in concert with others, that is intended to obstruct, disrupt, or interfere with, or that in fact obstructs, disrupts, or interferes with any instructional, educational, research, administrative, or public performance or other activity authorized to be conducted in or on a University facility. Obstruction or disruption includes, but is not limited to, any act that interrupts, modifies, or damages utility service or equipment, communication service or equipment, or computer equipment, software, or networks (UTA Handbook or Operating Procedures, Ch. 2, Sec. 2-202). Students who do not respect the guidelines listed above or who disrupt other students’ learning may be asked to leave class and/or referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

**Academic Integrity:** Students enrolled all UT Arlington courses are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

*I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington’s tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.*

*I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.*

UT Arlington faculty members may employ the Honor Code as they see fit in their courses, including (but not limited to) having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System *Regents’ Rule* 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university’s standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student’s suspension or expulsion from the University.

**Electronic Communication:** UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox daily. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

**Student Feedback Survey:** At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as “lecture,” “seminar,” or “laboratory” shall be directed to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student’s feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington’s effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

**Final Review Week:** A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week *unless specified in the class syllabus*. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

**Emergency Exit Procedures:** Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist individuals with disabilities.

**Student Support Services**: UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to [resources@uta.edu](mailto:resources@uta.edu), or view the information at http://www.uta.edu/universitycollege/resources/index.php

**The English Writing Center (411LIBR)**: Hours are 9 am to 8 pm Mondays-Thursdays, 9 am to 3 pm Fridays and Noon to 5 pm Saturdays and Sundays. Walk In ***Quick Hits*** sessions during all open hours Mon-Thurs. Register and make appointments online at [http://uta.mywconline.com](http://uta.mywconline.com/). Classroom Visits, Workshops, and advanced services for graduate students and faculty are also available. Please see [www.uta.edu/owl](http://www.uta.edu/owl) for detailed information.

**Emergency Phone Numbers**: In case of an on-campus emergency, call the UT Arlington Police Department at **817-272-3003** (non-campus phone), **2-3003** (campus phone). You may also dial 911. Non-emergency number 817-272-3381.