

This course on Masterpieces of British literature from the Romantic Period to the present surveys one of the most influential genres of time--the Gothic novel. Beginning with early manifestations of the genre and concluding with arguably its apotheosis—*Dracula*—the course dramatizes the ways in which the Gothic emerged as perhaps the most striking manifestation of modern dread.

The objectives for the course include providing students with a substantial background in British literary history during the last two hundred years as well as exploring selected origins of what is now considered “modern.” Moreover, the class is writing intensive, so that students get significant experience in honing their compositional skills as well.

The course will follow a chronological schedule beginning with the early Gothic writers and concluding at the end of the nineteenth century, with topics to be covered including the function of domains, restriction of individual agency, manifestations of anxiety, and a consideration of the textual strategies distinct to the genre.

Required readings: William Godwin, *Caleb Williams*; Mary Wollstonecraft *Mary and Maria*; Charlotte Dacre, *Zofloya*; Maria Edgeworth, *The Absentee*; Percy Shelley, *Zastrozzi* (handout); Mary Shelley, *Mathilda*; Robert Louis Stevenson, *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*; and Bram Stoker, *Dracula*.

Reading Schedule:

Week 1 (Aug. 26) – William Godwin, *Caleb Williams*

Week 2 (Sept. 7-9) - William Godwin, *Caleb Williams*

Week 3 (Sept. 14-16)- William Godwin, *Caleb Williams*; Mary Wollstonecraft *Mary*

Week 4 (Sept. 21-23) - Mary Wollstonecraft *Mary and Maria*

Week 5 (Sept. 28-30) - Mary Wollstonecraft *Mary and Maria*

Week 6 (Oct. 5-7) - Charlotte Dacre, *Zofloya*

Week 7 (Oct. 12-14) - Charlotte Dacre, *Zofloya*

Week 8 (Oct. 19-21) – Percy Shelley, *Zastrozzi* (handout)

Week 9 (Oct. 26-28) - Maria Edgeworth, *The Absentee*

Week 10 (Nov. 2-4) - Maria Edgeworth, *The Absentee* ; Mary Shelley, *Mathilda*

Week 11 (Nov. 9-11) - Mary Shelley, *Mathilda*

Week 12 (Nov. 16-18) - Robert Louis Stevenson, *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*

Week 13 Nov. 23 [Nov. 25 – Thanksgiving] - Bram Stoker, *Dracula*

Week 14 (Nov. 30-Dec. 2) - Bram Stoker, *Dracula*

Week 15 (Dec. 7-9) - Bram Stoker, *Dracula*

Writing Assignments:

Students will write an 1-2 page essay for each class.