

Introduction to Gothic Literature

ASU Prison Education Programming

Spring 2019



What is Gothic literature?

Poems, plays, and books that include themes of isolation, horror, and gloom, as well as more romantic themes of nature, love, and the power of the human mind.

What will class be like?

We will focus on creative writing (short stories, songs, poems, etc.) and class discussions that relate to the readings and central ideas of the gothic genre.

What will you learn in this class?

You will learn about the gothic genre, read its most influential works, and discuss the societal and cultural ideas central to the genre.

Who should take this class?

Those who are interested in creative writing and discussions, and want to learn more about horror.

Week	In-Class Topic	Assignment
Week 1 CW	Introduction to the course, readings, and writing assignments. Practice creative writing with short prompts	Read <i>Annabel Lee</i> , <i>The Raven</i>
Week 2 D	Background on Edgar Allan Poe; discuss <i>Annabel Lee</i> and <i>The Raven</i>	Read <i>The Conqueror Worm</i> , <i>The Masque of the Red Death</i> ;
Week 3 CW	Background into treatment of women in victorian era and connection to mental illness. Creative writing prompts on insanity	Read <i>The Yellow Wallpaper</i> ; Write 5 discussion questions about <i>The Yellow Wallpaper</i>
Week 4 D	Class discussion on <i>The Yellow Wallpaper</i>	Read sections of <i>Frankenstein</i>
Week 5 CW	Creative writing prompts on fear; creating a monster made of common fears	<i>Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde</i>
Week 6 D	Discussion on <i>Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde</i> ; when is a time you had to be two different people	Read <i>The Turn of the Screw</i> excerpts
Week 7 CW	Creative writing prompt: write a ghost story; write if the ghosts in <i>The Turn of the Screw</i> are real or not	Read <i>Young Goodman Brown</i>
Week 8 D	Discussion on <i>Young Goodman Brown</i> , witches, and witch trials; read and watch excerpts of <i>The Crucible</i>	Read excerpts of <i>Dracula</i>
Week 9 CW	Rewrite scenes from <i>Dracula</i> using an alternative perspective	Continue reading excerpts of <i>Dracula</i>
Week 10 D	Act out scenes from <i>Dracula</i> , discuss themes and literary devices	Read excerpts of <i>Decameron</i> (<i>Day 1, Story 1 & Day 4, Story 9</i>)
Week 11 D	Discuss <i>Decameron</i> and past influences on gothic literature	Read <i>Coraline</i>
Week 12 D	Discuss modern takes on gothic literature, the efficacy of different mediums and watch clips of <i>Coraline</i>	Figure out 3 ideas of your own gothic literature (songs, raps, poems, short stories)
Week 13 CW	Introduction of the final assignment and group discussion of different ideas	Finalize your gothic work
Week 14 CW	Present gothic work in class, review what we've learned	