Syllabus
ENGL 2123, version 1.2
Effective: May 22, 2015

ENGL 2123—Studies in Literary Traditions and Themes: Horror Fiction

Course Description: This is a General Education course. Skills for reading and writing about literature; attention to historical development, context, and critical perspectives.

Textbooks and Other Materials

Students enrolling in ODL courses are required to follow the textbook ordering information provided in this syllabus and in the Getting Started module of the Moodle course. ODL is not responsible for student purchases that result in the receipt of the wrong materials. It is the responsibility of the student to order the correct textbook materials.

Textbook

Below is a list of required texts for this course. The edition of book you use is not important; you should purchase whatever edition is most readily available. Whenever possible, in the course site, the instructor has included the web site addresses for electronic versions of texts that can be printed for free from the internet. Videos should be easily available at your local video store and, in some cases, even from your public library.

Novels, any edition:
- Poppy Z. Brite, Exquisite Corpse
- Max Brooks, World War Z
- Andrew Fox, Fat White Vampire Blues
- Shirley Jackson, The Haunting of Hill House
- Stephen King, Carrie
- Joseph Sheridan LeFanu, Carmilla*
- Ira Levin, Rosemary’s Baby
- Fritz Leiber, Conjure Wife
- H.P. Lovecraft, Herbert West—Reanimator*
- Richard Matheson, The Incredible Shrinking Man
- Stephenie Meyer, Twilight
- Clara Reeve, The Old English Baron*
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Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*
Bram Stoker, *Dracula*
Laura Whitcomb, *A Certain Slant of Light*

Short stories:
Suzy McKee Charnas, “Boobs” *
Edgar Allan Poe, “The Tell-tale Heart”*

* File or link provided.

Required viewings. Please note the year, as some of these have been remade:
*Candyman*, dir. Bernard Rose, 1992
*Cloverfield*, dir. Matt Reeves, 2008
*The Craft*, dir. Andrew Flemming, 1996
*Dracula’s Daughter*, dir. Lambert Hiller, 1936
*The Exorcist*, dir. William Friedkin, 1973
*Frankenstein*, dir. James Whale, 1931
*Ginger Snaps*, dir. John Fawcett, 2000
*Gojira*, dir. Ishirô Honda, 1954
*Let Me In*, dir. Matt Reeves, 2010
*Night of the Living Dead*, dir. George A. Romero, 1968
*The Orphanage*, dir. Juan Antonio Bayona, 2007
*Paranormal Activity*, dir. Oren Peli, 2007
*Psycho*, dir. Alfred Hitchcock, 1960
*The Ring*, dir. Gore Verbinski, 2002
*Shaun of the Dead*, dir. Edgar Wright, 2004
*Two Thousand Maniacs!* , dir. Herschell Gordon Lewis, 1964
*White Zombie*, dir. Victor Halperin, 1932
*The Wicker Man*, dir. Robin Hardy, 1973
*The Wolf Man*, dir. George Waggner, 1941

*Many of these films have been remade, but of course, the remake is not the same as the original. Therefore, it is important that you watch the version of the film that I have indicated.*
Ordering Information

Please review the following tips for ordering your course materials:

1. Do not purchase your textbooks until your enrollment is approved. During the processing period, a new section may be opened that could require a different textbook or edition.
2. If you are having problems locating a textbook, contact us at Answers@outreach.lsu.edu for assistance.

Other Materials and Resources

The following are not required but are relevant to our interests:

Documentaries and other films about the horror genre:

   - *Nightmare in Red, White, and Blue*  
   - *Hitchcock*  
   - *Going to Pieces: The Rise and Fall of the Slasher Film*

Readings of interest:

   - *The Horror Film: An Introduction*, by Rick Worland
   - *Danse Macabre*, by Stephen King

**Software:** MS Word, Adobe Flash Player, Adobe Shockwave Player, Adobe Acrobat Reader

   Students must use a recent version of MS Word to complete the module assignments.

   We recommend that you use Mozilla Firefox or Google Chrome as your web browser. Internet Explorer is not compatible with your Moodle course site.

   Adobe Flash and Adobe Shockwave player are required for online testing. Adobe Acrobat Reader is required to view PDF document files.

**Hardware:** *Web cam with a microphone (built-in or external), headphones or working speakers,* and *high speed internet*

   Exams are completed online and require the hardware listed above. Students are encouraged to review the technical requirements provided on the ProctorU website and to perform a test on their equipment prior to enrolling in this course to make sure they have the necessary resources available.
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Equipment Test: http://www.proctoru.com/testitout/

Nature and Purpose of the Course

Course Outcomes: Upon completion of this course, students are expected to:

1. Have a fuller understanding of the horror genre and its various subgenres and modes
2. Appreciate how other genres have influenced the horror genre
3. Understand how horror articulates our most frightening experiences that we have no words to describe so that we can ultimately understand them

What is horror? How does it differ from other related genres such as fantasy, science fiction, and even romance? Why are we so fascinated by tales of animated corpses, ghosts, incest-committing vampires, and even people who use chefs’ knives and chain saws to do nasty things to other people? And more importantly, why do people want to read about such disturbing things? We will attempt to answer these questions and more by examining a variety of texts. The reading and viewing list may seem “frighteningly” long at first. After all, there are several novels on it. However, it is important to realize that horror is primarily a genre of novels and films, so these type of works will comprise the bulk of what we examine in this course. The structure of this course and selected the readings have been organized so that you can get a feel for the various modes of writing and types of monsters that are included in the genre of horror. Finally, since you have chosen to take this course, the assumption is that you have some fondness for the genre, and so completing the readings and viewings in this course will not be an onerous burden.

Finally, in an effort to make this course into something that will encourage you to further explore your reading interests in the genre—provided in each module are lists of other works which may be of interest to you. You are not required to visit any of these sites, read any of the suggested works, or view any of the suggested films. This information is merely provided as lagniappe for your further enjoyment.

Working with the Course Materials

Remember, this course covers an entire semester of work or the equivalent of a classroom course lasting 15 weeks. That means that each module in this course equals nearly a week of course work and will require the same time and effort on your part. Do not expect to complete each module in a single study session. Understand, too, that if you choose to submit assignments at a very high pace, your instructor may not be able to grade your work at the same rate.

Each module contains information, activities, and assignments organized under a consistent series of headings. Get familiar with how the module is organized. Each module in this course
is organized into the following sections: the module learning objectives, the reading assignment, a graded quiz, and the graded module assignment. You should work through these parts of the module in order. Specific recommendations are provided in a link to the course module instructions, which you should review before beginning the first module.

Carefully read the module material, the novels, and short stories, watch the films, and review the information in each module before you begin to prepare the module assignments.

Some of the films we are watching in this class have been remade. Please make sure that you are always watching the version specified in the course materials as the module is specific to that particular version.

**Suggested Study Techniques**

1. Carefully review the module objectives to help you focus on the information that will be covered on the exams.
2. Concentrate on the reading assignments, the module lecture material, and any additional resources provided. This review should include a detailed examination of any illustrative problems and examples. After an assignment has been completed, a rapid re-reading of the related text and other materials is strongly recommended.
3. Put yourself on a definite schedule. Set aside a certain block of hours per day or week for this course and work in a place where distractions are minimal.
4. Try to submit one assignment each week or at least every two weeks. Delays in submitting assignments usually result in lagging interest and the inability to complete the course.
5. Review your module assignments after they have been graded, paying special attention to any instructor feedback provided. (We suggest that you wait for assignment feedback before you submit subsequent assignments.)
6. Regardless of how you complete your graded assignments, keep in mind that module completion should not be your sole preparation for your exams. As with any college course, you should study for your exams.

**Reading Assignments**

This course covers the following specific topics:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01</td>
<td>General Theory of Horror</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02</td>
<td>The Ghost Story and the Haunted House Narrative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03</td>
<td>The Possession Narrative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04</td>
<td>The Vampire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05</td>
<td>The Werewolf</td>
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Module Assignments

Each assignment consists of a discussion of the material being considered, a pretest on the material, and several questions that will engage your ability to think analytically about the material under discussion. Your responses to these questions are to be essay answers where you support your observations with evidence from the works under discussion. One-sentence and even one-paragraph answers are inadequate and unacceptable. Remember that your responses to these questions are the way you will demonstrate to me your mastery of the material we are examining. Unless otherwise specified, your responses are to be at least 300 words in length, preferably longer. I will not grade anything shorter. Also, since this is a college English course, you are expected to write in clear, grammatical, idiomatic English. Everything you were taught in freshman composition applies here, so don’t just send me your first draft, but instead, spend some time going through the writing process and crafting your answers before submitting your work to me.

When responding to the questions, begin by stating your thesis, making clear what you are asserting, and then work from there. Do not respond to the question as if you are assuming the original question is lying in front of the reader. If, for example, you’re asked whether Dr. Frankenstein’s creature is a fundamentally good being, don’t just answer “Yes.” Instead, you should begin your response this way: “Dr. Frankenstein’s creature is a fundamentally good being.” Some students have even found it helpful to copy the question or write a paraphrase of the question before attempting to answer, as doing so helps them focus their thoughts.

Next, your thesis should be supported with evidence from the text (either through direct quotation or paraphrase). Be sure to also explain how this evidence supports your assertions.
is also important to note that when writing literary analyses (which is precisely what you’ll be
doing in this course), you may assume that your reader is familiar with the text under
discussion; therefore, it is not necessary to quote or paraphrase material simply to inform the
reader about events in the novel, short story or film. Instead, material should be cited for the
purposes of closer examination on the part of the reader or for pointing out important
information your reader may have missed. If you wish, you may also cite supporting evidence
from outside critical sources. Please cite your sources correctly, using MLA format. You can
make your parenthetical and works cited notations easily with Citation Machine at
http://citationmachine.net/.

Next, be thorough in your analysis. Don’t just cite a single instance if more examples are to be
found. Make a strong case. Your answers should demonstrate that you know what you are
talking about and that you have a thorough understanding of the works being discussed.

Finally, your submitted module must be formatted in the following way:

Place your name, the course number, module number and date at the top of the document. If
you wish, you may use the Insert Header function in Word to do this. Otherwise, please at least
type this rudimentary information at the top so that I do not inadvertently misfile your
module. The information you place at the top of your module might look something like this:

Name   English 2123   Module 1   9 December 2014

Next, please single space your work. I realize that most of you are accustomed to double
spacing your work that you submit. However, it is far easier to grade material on a computer
screen when it is single spaced. Put at least 2 spaces between each response. It is not
necessary to put a page break in between each response. In fact, I much prefer that you did
not put a page break in between each response.

1. Please number your responses to correspond with the question that you are
answering. Thus, if you are answering Question #1, please put 1) or 1. at the
beginning of this response.

2. Finally, please answer each question separately. Occasionally students
misunderstand the module assignment as one long compound question rather
than several compound questions. Thus, I have received submissions in which the
student has attempted to answer all 5 or 6 questions in the assignment in one
continuous response. Responding in this way is not acceptable, as it makes it very
difficult for me to see how well you have answered each individual question. As a
consequence, I will return as incomplete submissions that attempt to respond to
the module in this way.

Use the following naming convention for documents to be uploaded:
CourseNumber_Version_Section_LastName_FirstName_ModuleNumber

(Example: ENGL2123_1.2_1_jones_sam_M01)

You should submit each module assignment as soon as it is completed. Some courses have restrictions that require that a grade be received before you can submit additional assignments. Specific information on assignment submission is included in the Module Instructions. Please be sure to follow these instructions.

You must have a grade posted in the Moodle grade book for the Module 15 Assignment in order to unlock access to the Final Exam. Please allow at least 7 days for the final assignment grade to be posted in the gradebook.

Once you submit an assignment, you cannot revise it, so be sure to check your work. Your instructor will normally post a grade for your assignment within seven calendar days. Understand that occasional delays will occur, such as during holidays and semester breaks or if you submit several module assignments within the same week. You must have been enrolled in the course for at least three weeks, regardless of when the modules and other exams are completed.

Do not rely too heavily on your textbook or other resource material when preparing your assignments. If you do, you may not realize until exam time that the perfect response you prepared for an assignment was only possible because you referred to resource material without really learning or understanding the material and concepts. Therefore, you should attempt each assignment without referring to the resource material, and if you find it necessary to look up an answer, be sure you have actually learned the concept and material rather than merely reflecting it in the answer.

Academic Integrity

Students in Online Distance Learning (ODL) courses must comply with the LSU Code of Student Conduct. Suspected violations of the academic integrity policy may be referred to LSU Student Advocacy & Accountability (SAA), a unit of the Dean of Students. If found responsible of a violation, you will then be subject to whatever penalty SAA determines and will forfeit all course tuition and fees.

Plagiarism

Students are responsible for completing and submitting their own course work and preparing their own modules. All work submitted in the course modules must be the student’s own work unless outside work is appropriate to the assignment; all outside material must be properly acknowledged. It is also unacceptable to copy directly from your textbook or to use published answer keys or the teacher’s edition of a textbook.
Collaboration

Unauthorized collaboration constitutes plagiarism. Collaborative efforts that extend beyond the limits approved by the instructor are violations of the academic integrity policy. Students who study together are expected to prepare and write their own individual work for submission and grading.

For more information and links to the LSU Code of Student Conduct and the SAA website, go to the ODL Academic Integrity policy on our website.

Examinations and Grading Policy

Your module assignments are worth 100 points each. The module quizzes will be worth 10 points of your module assignment grade, and the responses will be worth 90 points. Responses to assignments will be graded according to how well you support your assertions, as well as your ability to express yourself clearly. Awkward, wordy, and confusing sentences and excessive errors in spelling and grammar will lower your grade, so proofread your work carefully.

After you have completed Modules 01 through 08, you will take a proctored mid-course exam worth 100 points, which is worth one third of your grade. The proctored final exam will be taken after you have completed all previous work in the course. Your final exam is worth 100 points, or one third of your grade in this course. The average of your module grades will comprise the remaining third of your grade. Exams are taken in accordance with the standard instructions of the ODL office.

You will have a maximum of three hours to complete the exams. No textbooks, scratch paper, notes or other materials allowed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Value</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average of Module Assignments</td>
<td>1/3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-Course Exam</td>
<td>1/3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>1/3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Course grade $=$

The following grading scale applies for students who complete the course on or after October 15, 2015. Prior to that date, the scale will be the same, except that pluses and minuses will be dropped from the grade posted in the student’s permanent record and transcript.

- 97%–100% = A+
- 93%–96% = A  
- 90%–92% = A-
- 87%–89% = B+
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83%-86% = B
80%-82% = B-
77%-79% = C+
73%-76% = C
70%-72% = C-
67%-69% = D+
63%-66% = D
60%-62% = D-
0%-59% = F

YOU MUST EARN A PASSING AVERAGE ON THE EXAMINATIONS IN ORDER TO PASS THE COURSE.

IMPORTANT: The final exam cannot be taken until you meet the following requirements. Under no circumstances may the final exam be taken earlier.

1. You must have been enrolled in the course for at least three weeks, regardless of when the modules and other exams are completed.

2. You must have a grade posted in the Moodle grade book for the Module 15 Assignment in order to unlock access to the Final Exam. Please allow at least 7 days for the final assignment grade to be posted in the gradebook.

To read the full exam policy and other policy statements, visit http://www.outreach.lsu.edu/Extended-Campus/Online-Distance-Learning/Guidelines-Policies/Policies. Go to Continuing Education’s homepage. Click on Extended Campus, select Online Distance Learning, and then click the link for Guidelines and Policies.

Taking Your Examinations

You are required to create a Louisiana State University ODL ProctorU account and to take your examinations through ProctorU, a remote proctoring service that allows you to take exams anywhere with internet access. Information on creating your ProctorU account can be found in the Getting Started module. You cannot use an account created through another university, so if you already have an account, you will still need to create an account associated with LSU Online Distance Learning (ODL).

The ProctorU website provides links you can use to find out how ProctorU works and to check your computer to see that it meets the technical requirements. In addition, to test using ProctorU, you need access to a web cam with a microphone (built-in or external), headphones or working speakers, and high speed internet to use this service. A complete list of technical requirements is available from the ProctorU website.
You should schedule your exams about a week before you are ready to take them in order to avoid any additional charges.

**Transcript Information**

After you have completed this course, your grade will be filed with the Office of the University Registrar. If a transcript is needed, it is your responsibility to make a request to the registrar. If you would like to order a transcript, visit the Office of the University Registrar Transcript Requests page to view your options: [http://sites01.lsu.edu/wp/registraroffice/student-services/transcript-request/](http://sites01.lsu.edu/wp/registraroffice/student-services/transcript-request/).

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ENGL 2123 *Studies in Literary Traditions and Themes*

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Louisiana State University

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ED/KP/RA