



**LIT 116G: Monsters and Literature**  
**Victorian Monsters**  
**Instructor Tara Thomas – Summer Session II**  
**July 29 to August 30, 2019**

Date: 7/29-8/30/19

Email: [tanthoma@ucsc.edu](mailto:tanthoma@ucsc.edu)

Time: 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Office: HUM 329

Location: Physical Sciences 140

Office Hours: 12:30-1:30 p.m. MW

**Required Texts:**

- Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*

ISBN: 019953716X

Available at the Bay Tree Bookstore

[https://www.amazon.com/Frankenstein-Modern-Prometheus-Oxford-Classics/dp/019953716X/ref=sr\\_1\\_2?](https://www.amazon.com/Frankenstein-Modern-Prometheus-Oxford-Classics/dp/019953716X/ref=sr_1_2?keywords=frankenstein+oxford&qid=1557860569&s=gateway&sr=8-2)

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- Supplementary reading available on Canvas (course reader also available at University Copy)

**Course Description:**

In *Monster Theory*, Jeffrey Cohen writes that “[t]he monster is born only at this metaphoric crossroads, as an embodiment of a certain cultural moment—of a time, a feeling, a place.” In this course, we will consider how the Victorians’ construction of monstrosity reflects their particular historical moment, characterized by industrialization, colonization, and scientific development. Through a critical examination of monsters in literature, we will explore anxieties, fears, and ideals of Victorian society, paying close attention to issues of gender, sexuality, class, race, empire, scientific, and technology. We begin by examining the pre-Victorian *Frankenstein*, in order to discuss the gothic and romantic roots of monsters in the nineteenth-century English literary tradition. Next, we discuss representations of gender, sexuality, and the figure of the vampire in Le Fanu’s *Carmilla*, followed by an examination of orientalism in Haggard’s *She*. We then consider Stevenson’s *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* in conversation with Victorian conceptions of social Darwinism and sexology. Finally, we discuss H.G. Well’s *The Island of Doctor Moreau* in relation to late-Victorian debates about vivisection.

**Course Goals:**

As an upper-division course, this class is designed to provide an introduction to critical reading and writing while providing the opportunity to study the literary topic of monsters in literature within the historical and social context of nineteenth-century England. Throughout the course, we will develop these skills in order to provide you with the following outcomes:

- to develop higher-order reading skills
- to read and listen attentively

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- to think critically and analytically
- to produce and evaluate interpretations
- to access evidence and to deploy it effectively in your own work
- to identify and to understand how and whether a text achieves its aim

\*These outcomes have been adapted from the Academic Senate’s Textual Analysis and Interpretation (TA) General Education requirement.

**Course Responsibilities and Final Grading:**

Because this is an intensive summer course, you will be responsible for an estimated 30 hours of course-related work per week. You will be accountable for having effectively prepared for each class, and I will help motivate you to stay on top of the reading by giving weekly reading quizzes.

Your final grade in the course will be determined as follows:

• Weekly Reading Quizzes	20%
• Take Home Midterm Exam	25%
• Take Home Final Exam	30%
• Monster Creative Assignment	5%
• Monster Adaptation Assignment	5%
• Attendance	10%
• Participation	5%

**Weekly Reading Quizzes: 4 IN TOTAL**

Each week we will have a pop quiz in class covering the assigned reading and films. Please bring your laptop or download the Canvas app on your phone so you can take them in class on Canvas.

**Take Home Exams: MIDTERM AUG 16<sup>th</sup> & FINAL AUG 30<sup>th</sup>**

The take home midterm and final will be comprised of multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, and a few short essay prompts. Both will cover the primary and secondary texts. The final will be cumulative with an emphasis on the final two weeks of class.

**Monster Creative Assignment: DUE AUG 9<sup>th</sup>**

This assignment asks you to apply your knowledge from the primary and secondary readings we’ve read thus far to invent your own monster. You will create a visual representation of the monster and provide a 500-1000 word creative-critical short essay explaining the theoretical underpinning of your project.

**Monster Adaptation Assignment: DUE AUG 28<sup>th</sup>**

This will be a film review of a Victorian monster movie of your choice that provides a commentary on how the movie adapts the literary version. This can be one of the texts from our syllabus or another Victorian text you are familiar with. 500-1000 words.

**Attendance:**

Because this is an intensive summer course, you are required to attend all lectures. More than two unexcused absences will result in a failing grade. Attendance will be worth 10% of your final grade, while the other 5% will be based on your participation in class. In the case of an absence, please contact your small group members to get up-to-date on what you missed.

**Participation:**

There will be a separate participation grade that will be evaluated based on your level of active engagement in class. This grade will take into consideration your interaction in your designated small group, your attentiveness and participation in lectures, large and small group discussions, and class activities.

**Assignment Submission Policy:**

All assignments must be submitted in order to pass this class. Please submit your work on time; I will deduct a letter grade for each day of unapproved lateness. Extensions will be granted only under extenuating circumstances and must be approved 24 hours in advance unless in the case of emergency.

**Important Deadlines:**

Session 2:

Drop: Monday, August 5

Request for "W": Friday, August 16

Neither Summer Session nor instructors drop students for non-attendance or non-payment. Students must drop themselves. Dropping results in full tuition reversal/refund. Withdraw posts a W for the grade and full tuition is charged (no refund).

For all dates and deadlines, including 'change of grade option' (P/NP) and grades due, here is the summer academic calendar: <https://summer.ucsc.edu/studentlife/index.html>

For questions about dropping, requesting a W grade for a course, or withdrawing from the summer quarter, email [summer@ucsc.edu](mailto:summer@ucsc.edu).

**DRC Accommodations:**

The Disability Resources Center reduces barriers to inclusion and full participation for students with disabilities by providing support to individually determine reasonable academic accommodations. If you have questions or concerns about exam accommodations or any other disability-related matter, please contact the DRC office, located in Hahn 125 or at 831-459-2089 or [drc@ucsc.edu](mailto:drc@ucsc.edu).

**Academic Dishonesty**

Academic integrity is the cornerstone of a university education. Academic dishonesty diminishes the university as an institution and all members of the university community. It tarnishes the value of a UCSC degree.

All members of the UCSC community have an explicit responsibility to foster an environment of trust, honesty, fairness, respect, and responsibility. All members of the university community are expected to present as their original work only that which is truly their own. All members of the community are expected to report observed instances of cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty in order to ensure that the integrity of scholarship is valued and preserved at UCSC.

In the event a student is found in violation of the UCSC Academic Integrity policy, he or she may face both academic sanctions imposed by the instructor of record and disciplinary sanctions imposed either by the provost of his or her college or the Academic Tribunal convened to hear the case. Violations of the Academic Integrity policy can result in dismissal from the university and a permanent notation on a student's transcript.

For the full policy and disciplinary procedures on academic dishonesty, students and instructors should refer to the [Academic Integrity page](#) at the Division of Undergraduate Education.

**Summer Session Syllabi Development**

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**Title IX:**

The university cherishes the free and open exchange of ideas and enlargement of knowledge. To maintain this freedom and openness requires objectivity, mutual trust, and confidence; it requires the absence of coercion, intimidation, or exploitation. The principal responsibility for maintaining these conditions must rest upon those members of the university community who exercise most authority and leadership: faculty, managers, and supervisors.

The university has therefore instituted a number of measures designed to protect its community from sex discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual violence, and other related prohibited conduct. [Information about the Title IX Office](#), the [online reporting link](#), applicable campus [resources](#), reporting responsibilities, the [UC Policy on Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment](#) and the UC Santa Cruz Procedures for Reporting and Responding to Reports of Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment can be found at [titleix.ucsc.edu](http://titleix.ucsc.edu).

The Title IX/Sexual Harassment Office is located at 105 Kerr Hall. In addition to the [online reporting option](#), you can contact the Title IX Office by calling 831-459-2462.

**Small Groups:**

You will be assigned a small group with whom you will work throughout the term. This group will be your 'go to' group for group discussions and activities. In the case of an absence, please contact your small group members to get up-to-date on what you missed.

**Contacting the Instructor and Teaching Assistant:**

Tara will be available during office hours from 1:30-2:30 p.m. in Hum 1 room 329 MW. Emails will be answered within 24 hours between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. on weekdays. If you have questions related to the assignments, please be sure to ask well in advance.

**Writing Support:**

There are several UCSC Writing Centers on campus that can provide you with writing support for your two writing assignments this term. Because this is an intensive course, I request that you visit one of the Writing Centers on campus for writing-related questions and help on your drafts. The TA and I will be available during office hours for course content-related questions but will be unable to read drafts of your assignments.

**Due Dates and Reading Schedule**

WEEK 1	INTRODUCTION TO MONSTER THEORY
Monday July 29 <sup>th</sup>	Introduction to Course:  Lewis Carroll, "Jabberwocky" (in class)  Jeffrey Jerome Cohen, "Monster Culture: Seven Theses" (in class)

	<p>Victorians and Classical Monstrosity:  Dante Gabriel Rossetti, "The Burden of Nineveh"  William Butler Yeats, "The Hosting of the Sidhe"  Alfred Tennyson, "The Kraken"</p> <p>Film Screening: <i>The Mummy</i></p>
<b>WEEK 2</b>	<b>VICTORIAN MONSTERS AND MODERNITY</b>
Monday August 5 <sup>th</sup>	<p>Monstrous Encounters:  Elizabeth Gaskell, "The Old Nurse's Story"  Vernon Lee, "Prince Alberic and the Snake Lady"</p>
Wednesday August 7 <sup>th</sup>	<p>Monsters of the Market:  Christina Rossetti, "Goblin Market"</p> <p>Film Screening:</p>
Friday August 9 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Monster Creative Assignment due by 11:59 p.m. on Canvas</b>
<b>WEEK 3</b>	<b>THE MAKING OF THE MODERN MONSTER</b>
Monday August 12 <sup>th</sup>	Mary Shelley, <i>Frankenstein</i>
Wednesday August 14 <sup>th</sup>	<p>Mary Shelley, <i>Frankenstein</i>  Film Screening: <i>Frankenstein</i> (1931)</p>
Friday August 16 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Midterm due by 11:59 p.m. on Canvas</b>
<b>WEEK 4</b>	<b>ORIENTALISM AND MONSTERS</b>
Monday August 19 <sup>th</sup>	Mary Shelley, <i>Frankenstein</i>
Wednesday August 21 <sup>st</sup>	<p>Mary Shelley, <i>Frankenstein</i>  Film Screening: <i>The Curse of Frankenstein</i> (1957)</p>
<b>WEEK 5</b>	<b>FIN DE SIECLE MONSTROSITY, THE ORIENT, &amp; THE OTHER</b>
Monday August 26 <sup>th</sup>	<p>Arthur Conan Doyle, "Lot 249"  Michael Field, "The Mummy Invokes His Soul"  Oscar Wilde, "The Sphinx"</p> <p>Film Screening: <i>The Mummy's Ghost</i></p>
Wednesday August 28 <sup>th</sup>	<p>Lord Byron, <i>The Giaour</i> (selections)  Bram Stoker, "Dracula's Guest"</p> <p>Film Screening: <i>The Vampire Lovers</i> (1870)</p> <p><b>Monster Adaptation Assignment due by midnight on Canvas</b></p>
Friday August 30 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Final exam due by 11:59 p.m. on Canvas</b>



