



LIT 116G: Monsters and Literature
Victorian Monsters
Summer 2024
(Asynchronous)
Dr. Tara Thomas

Date: June 24-July 26, 2024
Email: tanthoma@ucsc.edu
Office Hours: Fridays 9-10 a.m.

Required Texts:

- [Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein* \(Oxford University Press\)](#)(Purchase)
- All other readings available on Canvas

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.

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
- 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:

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| ● Quizzes | 20% |
| ● Discussion Posts & Replies | 40% |
| ● StoryMap Assignments | 40% |

Policy on Late Submissions / Extensions:

Please do your best to complete assignment deadlines. If you need to submit late, please request permission from your TA. All assignments must be submitted by June 26th. No exceptions.

Time Commitment

Students should expect to spend 2.5 hours watching lectures, 6 hours of reading, and 5 hours of assignments each week.

Accessibility

UC Santa Cruz is committed to creating an academic environment that supports its diverse student body. If you are a student with a disability who requires accommodations to achieve equal access in this course, please affiliate with the DRC. I encourage all students to benefit from learning more about DRC services to contact DRC by phone at 831-459-2089 or by email at drc@ucsc.edu. For students already affiliated, make sure that you have requested Academic Access Letters, where you intend to use accommodations. You can also request to meet privately with me during my office hours



or by appointment, as soon as possible. I would like us to discuss how we can implement your accommodations in this course to ensure your access and full engagement in this course.

Add/Drop Policy: The drop date is July 1; withdraw deadline is July 14.
Change-grade deadline is July 21.

Intellectual Integrity and Plagiarism: The uncited use of thoughts and language not generated by you yourself is a breach of intellectual integrity and will be considered plagiarism. Remember to cite the ideas of other humans, whether they are quoted or paraphrased. Under no circumstances is it permissible to use AI for thinking and writing with one exception: you may use Grammarly or Word's Spell Check to edit your papers for grammatical errors and typos before submitting. No Chat GPT or other AI-generated writing.

Email Policy:

As a rule of thumb, please contact your TAs first! If reaching out to Dr. Thomas, please CC your TA. We will do our best to respond to emails promptly during the week (no weekend emails, please.). Teaching Assistants are your first point of contact for this class. They handle administrative tasks like grading. They can also answer questions about assignments and discuss questions you have about the reading.

Due Dates and Reading Schedule

WEEK 1	INTRODUCTION TO VICTORIAN MONSTER CULTURE
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Part 1	<p>Introduction to Course:</p> <p>Read: the syllabus Post: StoryMap Set-Up & About Me entry</p>
Part 2	<p>Victorian Monsters: Historicizing the Monster</p> <p>Read: “Toru Dutt, “Our Casuarina-Tree”; Jeffrey Jerome Cohen “Monster Theory” Post & Reply: Discussion Week 1 Complete: Week 1 Concepts Quiz</p>
WEEK 2	VICTORIAN MONSTERS AND MODERNITY
Part 1	<p>Monsters on the Market: Gender and Capitalism</p> <p>Read: Christina Rossetti, “Goblin Market” Do: StoryMap Assignment #1: Goblin Market Comparative Analysis</p>
Part 2	<p>The Victorian Gothic: Nineteenth-Century Psychological Aesthetics</p> <p>Read: Elizabeth Gaskell, “The Old Nurse’s Story” (prioritize); Vernon Lee, “Prince Alberic and the Snake Lady” Watch: Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde (1932) Do: Post & Reply: Discussion Week 2 Complete: Week 2 Concepts Quiz</p>
WEEK 3	THE MAKING OF THE MODERN MONSTER
Part 1	<p>Creating <i>Frankenstein</i>: Mary Shelley, 19th C. Culture, & Narrative Innovation</p> <p>Read: Mary Shelley, <i>Frankenstein</i> (pg. 1-61)</p>
Part 2	<p>Ideological Influences: Reading Wollstonecraft and Godwin in <i>Frankenstein</i></p> <p>Read: Mary Shelley, <i>Frankenstein</i> (pg. 62-99); PB Shelley’s “Mont Blanc”</p> <p>Watch: Frankenstein (1931) Do: Post & Reply: Discussion Week 3 Complete: Week 3 Concepts Quiz</p>
WEEK 4	GLOBAL VICTORIAN STUDIES AND THE MONSTER



Part 1	<p>Perspective, Narrative, and Adaptation</p> <p>Read: Mary Shelley, <i>Frankenstein</i> (pg 99-end) Do: StoryMap Assignment #2: Mapping <i>Frankenstein</i> (July 18th)</p>
Part 2	<p>Imperial Encounters & Climate Apocalypse in <i>Frankenstein</i></p> <p>Watch: The Curse of Frankenstein (1957) Do: StoryMap Assignment #3: Monster Film Review (July 21st) Complete: Week 4 Concepts Quiz</p>
WEEK 5	FIN DE SIECLE MONSTROSITY, THE ORIENT, & THE OTHER
Part 1	<p>Viral Vampires: The Vampire as Metaphor for Desire, Disease, and Decadence</p> <p>Read: Lord Byron, <i>The Giaour</i> (selections); Bram Stoker, “Dracula’s Guest” Watch: Dracula (1931) (optional)</p>
Part 2	Do: Story Map Assignment #4: Final Monster StoryMap
July 26th	All assignments due by midnight.