

LIT 2331: World Literature
Horror, the Monstrous, and the Weird

Fall 2024	Dr. Gavin Cox
Section 005	Email: Gavin.Cox@utdallas.edu
M/W 11:30 am – 12:45 pm	Office Number:
Class Location: FN 2.302	Office Hours: By appointment

Note: All matters associated with this course are subject to change at the instructor's discretion. Any and all changes will be communicated to students in writing.

"The oldest and strongest emotion of mankind is fear, and the oldest and strongest kind of fear is fear of the unknown." – H.P. Lovecraft

Course Description

Understanding world literature is critical to exposure to other cultures and belief systems, and exposure to different writings is typically ignored due to language or translation barriers. This course will expose you to literature from several countries, focusing on horror, the monstrous, and the weird from the 20th and 21st centuries. Horror in literature is more pronounced than ever, and is not found in English or American literature only. We will be examining literature and horror found throughout the world and in multiple translated languages.

Each class will be a combination of lecture and seminar (group work) to provide multiple avenues for learning.

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

- Students will read and analyze literary texts from various cultures and countries.
- Students will be able to synthesize ideas and make logical connections supported by evidence from the text.
- Students will articulate and communicate their understanding of assigned readings through class discussions, papers, reading response exercises, and groups assignments.

By the end of this course, students should demonstrate:

- An ability to analyze and critically evaluate a variety of literary works in the context of artistic and societal values.
- An ability to draw comparisons between literary works and to find meaning in comparative analysis.
- An ability to articulate the relationships between literary form and meaning.

- Able to effectively express their own arguments and analyses along with supporting them with evidence via in-class discussions, discussion posts, and essays
- Able to engage processes and use skills to enhance their written communication skills by completing essay assignments.
- Able to collaborate effectively in peer reviews of their written essay drafts.
- Able to apply ethical principles for synthesizing research and documenting sources for their written essays

Required Textbooks

The Norton Anthology of World Literature, Third Edition. Edited by Martin Puchner, et al, vol. F, W.W.Norton and Company. [ISBN: 978-0-393-91334-7] (N)
The Valancourt Book of World Horror Stories– edited by James D. Jenkins and Ryan Cagle, vol. 1, Valancourt Books. [ISBN: 978-1-948405-64-5] (V)
 Kang, Han. *The Vegetarian.* Hogarth Books, 2015. [ISBN: 978-1-101-90611-8]
 Wiesel, Elie. *Night.* Translated by Marion Wiesel, Hill and Wang, 2006. [ISBN: 978-0-374-50001-6]

Fall 2024 Assignments and Academic Calendar

Grading

Final Grade Levels

A+	97-100	A	93-96.9	A-	90-92.9
B+	87-89.9	B	83-86.9	B-	80-82.9
C+	77-79.9	C	73-76.9	C-	70-72.9
D+	67-69.9	D	63-69.9	D-	60-62.9
F	59.9 and under				

Mid-Term Essay	20%
Final Essay	30%
Discussion board	30%
Participation	20%
Total	100%

I will make use of the +/- system in grading as stipulated by the current University of Texas at Dallas Undergraduate Catalog.

Assignment Descriptions

(Note: You must submit all major assignments to Turnitin.com by the due date.)

19-Aug	<i>Introduction to semester</i>
21-Aug	Diary of a Madman (N) pp. 244 - 253
26-Aug	Uironda (V) pp. 20 – 47 The Tattooer (N) pp. 80 - 84
28-Aug	Mater Tenebrarum (V) pp. 48 – 72
2-Sep	<i>Labor Day</i>
4-Sep	The Time Remaining (V) pp. 73 – 95
9-Sep	The Angle of Horror (V) pp. 96 – 107 Pale Toes (V) pp. 269 – 297
11-Sep	The Metamorphosis (N) pp. 210 - 220
16-Sep	The Metamorphosis (N) pp. 220-231
18-Sep	The Metamorphosis (N) pp. 231 - 241
23-Sep	This Way for the Gas, Ladies and Gentlemen (N) pp. 695 - 707 Death Constant Beyond Love (N) pp. 988 - 993
25-Sep	Night pp. 3 - 46
30-Sep	Night pp. 47 – 84
2-Oct	Night pp. 85 - 115 <i>Outline due</i>
7-Oct	Down, in Their World (V) pp. 164 – 186
9-Oct	<i>Mid-term Essay due</i>
14-Oct	Menopause (V) pp. 187 – 194
	The Bones in Her Eyes (V) pp. 195 – 224
16-Oct	And of Clay Are We Created (N) pp. 1225 – 1231 Drown (N) pp. 1241 - 1249
21-Oct	Twin Shadows (V) pp. 225 – 234 Backstairs (V) pp. 235 – 268
23-Oct	Twin Shadows (V) pp. 225 – 234
28-Oct	The Vegetarian pp. 11 – 60
30-Oct	The Vegetarian pp. 61 - 101
4-Nov	The Vegetarian pp. 101 – 126
6-Nov	The Vegetarian pp. 126 - 201
11-Nov	Donation (V) pp. 312 – 333 Tiny Women (V) pp. 334 – 338 The Illogical Investigations of Inspector André Despérine (V) pp. 108 – 130
13-Nov	Mechanisms (V) pp. 339 – 372
18-Nov	The House of Leuk Dawour (V) pp. 373 – 382 The Collector (V) pp. 131 - 136 Señor Ligotti (V) pp. 137 – 163

20-Nov	The White Cormorant (V) pp. 383 – 397 All the Birds (V) pp. 398 – 412 <i>Outline due</i>
25-Nov	Thanksgiving Break
27-Nov	Thanksgiving Break
2-Dec	Snapshots (V) pp. 413 - 419 Kira (V) pp. 298 – 311
4-Dec	<i>Final Essay due</i>

Essay #1: Mid-Term Essay

An open analysis of a text we have read during the course. More details will be posted in eLearning and discussed in class. In this paper, analyze a reading you select from what has been discussed so far in the semester. The week before the essay is due, a brief one-page outline will need to be submitted to the professor for review and approval.

Length: 1200-1500 words (not including Works Cited) in MLA format, 12-point font
You must include a “Works Cited” page and use the correct MLA format for in-text (parenthetical) citations.

Due: **October 9 I DO NOT ACCEPT LATE PAPERS**

Essay #2: Final Essay

A critical analysis of a work of your choice from what has been discussed in class. More details will be posted in eLearning and discussed in class. In this paper, you will analyze one of the three longer readings, describing and explaining your understanding of how this particular reading relates to the core learning concept of the course, but additional individual understanding and relation of the course to other literature and to society. The week before the essay is due, a brief one-page outline will need to be submitted to the professor for review and approval.

Length: 1500-2000 words (not including Works Cited) in MLA format, 12-point font
You must include a “Works Cited” page and use the correct MLA format for in-text (parenthetical) citations.

Due: **December 4 I DO NOT ACCEPT LATE PAPERS**

Discussion Board

Throughout the duration of the course, I will post questions related to the readings or concepts discussed in class, as well as questions related to your specific insight into a more individualized viewpoint of what has been discussed so far. Your response post to my questions will be at least 250 words. This is a critical component of the course as it gives not only me but you a better understanding idea of your thoughts and viewpoints that others may not have considered.

Class Participation

Regular class participation is expected. Students who fail to participate in class regularly are inviting scholastic difficulty. A portion of the grade for this course is directly tied to your participation in this class. It also includes engaging in group or other activities during class that solicit your feedback on homework assignments, readings, or materials covered in the lectures (and/or labs). Class participation is documented by faculty. Successful participation is defined as consistently adhering to University requirements, as presented in this syllabus.

Your success in this course is a function of your level of engagement, your preparation for class, and your behavior in the classroom. I am interested in the quality of your remarks rather than the quantity. Please use your analysis of the readings, your daily/weekly assignments, and prior research and/or study when responding orally in class, and please be prepared to back up any points you make.

Participation in this course includes responding to questions to the class, contributing insight into the readings, and being directly involved in any group work or discussion that will take place during the semester.

Participation in this course does not include doing work unrelated to this course during class, sleeping in class, or using computers or other personal electronic devices for personal messaging, research, or entertainment.

Participation grades will be communicated to each student at the midway point of the course so a better understanding of what needs to be done before the final participation in the course.

COURSE POLICIES

Class Attendance

Because each class period consists of a mixture of class discussion, group work and free writing, your thoughtful, attentive, and active participation is essential (and will form a portion of your grade). If you sleep, engage in non-class-related activities, or interfere with your classmates' ability to learn you will be counted absent for that day. Be on time - class starts promptly. Leaving early will count as an absence.

Each student is allowed three (3) absences, no questions asked. Save them for when you really need them. Your final grade will suffer a 5% reduction for each absence you accumulate over three (e.g., 6 absences = 15% total reduction). *You are responsible for your attendance. You must make sure you notify me if you will be arriving late and after I have taken attendance. You must notify me before class begins to have your absence considered excused.*

Punctuality

Persistent tardiness to class is disrespectful to both your instructor and your peers. Continually arriving late to class will affect your participation grade in the course. Three tardies will result in one unexcused absence for the course, and I will consider you absent if you arrive more than 10 minutes late to class.

Late Work

All drafts, including final, must be submitted when and as required in order to successfully complete this course. Late work will not be accepted, so plan accordingly. To repeat:

I DO NOT ACCEPT LATE WORK

Personal Communication Devices

Turn off all cell phones and music players (including headphones), and other personal communication devices before the start of class. Do not use such devices during class.

Academic Integrity

Students in LIT 2331 are expected to maintain a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. It is critically important you produce original written work and document all sources accurately using MLA format.

Please consult the following web sites addressing academic integrity as well as what constitutes cheating at UTD:

- <https://conduct.utdallas.edu>
- <https://conduct.utdallas.edu/students>
- <https://conduct.utdallas.edu/policies>
- <https://conduct.utdallas.edu/integrity>
- <https://policy.utdallas.edu/utdsp5003>

Ask your instructor should you become concerned that you are possibly committing an act of scholastic dishonesty. UTD will hold you accountable regardless of whether or not you intended to plagiarize your paper.

LIT 2331 students suspected of plagiarism or any other act of scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary proceedings. Should the Judicial Affairs Officer find a student responsible, then he or she will typically receive a “0” on the assignment in question.

Sharing Confidential Information

Students considering sharing personal information in email, in person, or within assignments or exams should be aware that faculty members and teaching/research assistants are required by UT Dallas policy to report information about sexual misconduct

to the UT Dallas Title IX Coordinator. Per university policy, faculty have been informed that they must identify the student to the UT Dallas Title IX Coordinator. Students who wish to have confidential discussions of incidents related to sexual harassment or sexual misconduct should contact the Student Counseling Center (972-883-2527 or after hours 972-UTD-TALK or 972-883-8255), the Women's Center (972-883-8255), a health care provider in the Student Health Center (972-883-2747), a clergyperson (or other legally recognized religious advisor) of their choice, or an off-campus resource (i.e., rape crisis center, doctor, psychologist). Students who are sexually assaulted, harassed, or victims of sexual misconduct, domestic violence, or stalking, are encouraged to directly report these incidents to the UT Dallas Police Department at 972-883-2222 or to the Title IX Coordinator at 972-883-2218. Additional information and resources may be found at <http://www.utdallas.edu/oiec/title-ix/resources>.

Comet Creed

This creed was voted on by the UT Dallas student body in 2014. It is a standard that Comets choose to live by and encourage others to do the same:

“As a Comet, I pledge honesty, integrity, and service in all that I do.”

University Policies

Please review the university policies at <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies>.

The Writing Center

Located in McDermott Library (MC 1.310), the UT Dallas Writing Center is a free resource for students seeking help with a writing assignment. Tutors are available to work with you on your assignment during all stages of the writing process.

The Writing Center will open on January 17th for the Spring semester. Expected hours for their physical location will be Monday through Thursday 10 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Friday 10 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. As with recent semesters, they will continue to offer virtual appointments as well.

The UTD Writing Center philosophy stems from the peer-to-peer model of collaborative learning. Students and Peer Leaders engage in one-on-one conversations about their work and Peer Leaders will lead sessions by asking open-ended, engaging questions which allow the student to take ownership of their own writing. The Writing Center aims to provide direct, honest feedback to students in each tutoring session. The main goal of the Writing Center is to help the writer, not just the piece of writing.

Visit the Student Success Center website for the most up-to-date information and to schedule appointments:

<https://studentsuccess.utdallas.edu/programs/writing-center/>

