

# Gothic Literature: Course Syllabus

## Gothic Literature: Monster Stories

### COURSE DESCRIPTION:

From vampires to ghosts, these frightening stories have influenced fiction writers since the 18th century. This course will focus on the major themes found in Gothic literature and demonstrate how the core writing drivers produce, for the reader, a thrilling psychological environment. Terror versus horror, the influence of the supernatural, and descriptions of the difference between good and evil are just a few of the themes presented. By the time students have completed this course, they will have gained an understanding of and an appreciation for the complex nature of dark fiction.

### Unit 1: *GOTHICA: When Gruesome is Delicious*

#### Objectives:

Upon completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- \* Discuss the definition and specific traits of Gothic literature.
- \* Discuss the social and historical factors that influenced the birth of this genre.
- \* Examine specific themes typically found in Gothic works.
- \* Identify key vocabulary terms related to Gothic literature.
- \* Discuss important works from this genre, which exemplify its themes and other traits.

### ASSIGNMENTS:

*GOTHICA: When Gruesome is Delicious: Unit Lesson Review Questions*

*Homework*

10 points

<b>Unit 1 Discussion Assignment 1</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	5 points
<b>Unit 1 Discussion Assignment 2</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	5 points
<b>Unit 1 Quiz: GOTHICA: When Gruesome is Delicious</b>	<b>Quiz</b>	15 points

### **Unit 2: FRANKENSTEIN: A Monster is Born**

#### **Objectives:**

Upon completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- \* **Discuss Mary Shelley and the society in which she lived.**
- \* **Identify key vocabulary terms and characters from *Frankenstein*.**
- \* **Read and understand the Preface, letters, and chapters 1-12 of *Frankenstein*.**
- \* **Connect the novel with your own personal experiences and/or reactions to its themes.**
- \* **Determine which features of this novel make it fit the Gothic genre.**

#### **ASSIGNMENTS:**

<b>FRANKENSTEIN: A Monster is Born: Lesson Review Questions</b>	<b>Homework</b>	5 points
<b>FRANKENSTEIN: A Monster is Born: Unit Literature Study Questions</b>	<b>Homework</b>	25 points
<b>Unit 2 Discussion Assignment 1</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	5 points
<b>Unit 2 Discussion Assignment 2</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	5 points

---

**Unit 2 Quiz: FRANKENSTEIN: A  
Monster is Born**

**Quiz**

15 points

---

**Unit 3: FRANKENSTEIN: With Great Power Comes Great Responsibility**

**Objectives:**

Upon completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- \* **Discuss scientific and medical issues related to the theme of “playing god.”**
- \* **Compare the poem “Prometheus” by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe to *Frankenstein*.**
- \* **Identify key vocabulary terms from *Frankenstein* and the related readings.**
- \* **Read and understand chapters 13-25 of *Frankenstein*.**
- \* **Connect the novel with our own personal experiences and/or reactions to its themes.**

**ASSIGNMENTS:**

**FRANKENSTEIN: With Great Power  
Comes Great Responsibility: Unit  
Lesson Review Questions**

**Homework**

5 points

**FRANKENSTEIN: With Great Power  
Comes Great Responsibility: Unit  
Literature Study Questions**

**Homework**

25 points

**FRANKENSTEIN: With Great Power  
Comes Great Responsibility: Lesson  
Writing Assignment**

**Homework**

20 points

**Unit 3 Discussion Assignment 1**

**Discussion**

5 points

**Unit 3 Discussion Assignment 2**

**Discussion**

5 points

---

**Unit 3 Quiz: FRANKENSTEIN: With Great Power Comes Great Responsibility**

**Quiz**

15 points

**Unit 4: JEKYLL & HYDE: To Thine Ownself Be True**

**Objectives:**

Upon completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- \* Discuss Robert Louis Stevenson and his career as an author.
- \* Identify key vocabulary terms and characters from *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*.
- \* Read and understand the ten chapters of the novel.
- \* List and describe the Gothic traits learned in Unit 1 that are found in this novel.
- \* Apply themes from *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* to modern society or current events.

**ASSIGNMENTS:**

<b>JEKYLL &amp; HYDE: To Thine Ownself Be True: Unit Lesson Review Questions</b>	<b>Homework</b>	5 points
<b>JEKYLL &amp; HYDE: To Thine Ownself Be True: Unit Literature Study Questions</b>	<b>Homework</b>	25 points
<b>Unit 4 Discussion Assignment 1</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	5 points
<b>Unit 4 Discussion Assignment 2</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	5 points
<b>Unit 4 Quiz: JEKYLL &amp; HYDE: To Thine Ownself Be True</b>	<b>Quiz</b>	15 points

**Gothic Literature Midterm Exam****Objectives:**

Upon completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- \* Review information acquired and mastered from this course up to this point.
- \* Take a course exam based on material from the first four units in this course (Note: You will be able to open this exam only one time.)

**ASSIGNMENT:**

<b><i>Gothic Literature Midterm Exam</i></b>	<b><i>Exam</i></b>	<b>50 points</b>
<b><i>Midterm Discussion Assignment</i></b>	<b><i>Discussion</i></b>	<b>5 points</b>

**Unit 5: GOTHIC POETRY: Love From Beyond the Grave****Objectives:**

Upon completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- \* Identify key poetry vocabulary terms and locate examples of them in these poems.
- \* Read and analyze the 1773 ballad "Lenore" by German poet Gottfried August Bürger.
- \* Read and analyze the 1836 poem "Porphyria's Lover" by Robert Browning.
- \* Read and analyze the 1906 poem "The Highwayman" by Alfred Noyes.
- \* Look for modern examples of other literary works such as songs, poems, stories, or films that are related to the poems in this unit.

**ASSIGNMENTS:**

<b><i>GOTHIC POETRY: Love From Beyond the Grave: Unit Lesson Review Questions</i></b>	<b><i>Homework</i></b>	<b>15 points</b>
<b><i>Unit 5 Discussion Assignment 1</i></b>	<b><i>Discussion</i></b>	<b>5 points</b>

<b>Unit 5 Discussion Assignment 2</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	5 points
<b>Unit 5 Quiz: GOTHIC POETRY: Love From Beyond the Grave</b>	<b>Quiz</b>	15 points

### Unit 6: DRACULA: The Blood is the Life

#### Objectives:

Upon completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- \* Discuss Bram Stoker.
- \* Identify key vocabulary terms and characters from *Dracula*.
- \* Discuss scientific and social issues of Victorian times that are present in this novel.
- \* Discover the geographical differences between nineteenth century Europe and modern Europe.
- \* Read and understand chapters 1-13 of *Dracula*.

#### ASSIGNMENTS:

<b>DRACULA: The Blood is the Life: Unit Lesson Review Questions</b>	<b>Homework</b>	5 points
<b>DRACULA: The Blood is the Life: Unit Literature Study Questions</b>	<b>Homework</b>	25 points
<b>Unit 6 Discussion Assignment 1</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	5 points
<b>Unit 6 Discussion Assignment 2</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	5 points

**Unit 6 Quiz: DRACULA: The Blood is the Life**

**Quiz**

15 points

**Unit 7: DRACULA: The Hunter Becomes the Hunted**

**Objectives:**

Upon completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- \* Identify key vocabulary terms from *Dracula* and the related readings.
- \* Discuss physiognomy and phrenology and their influence in Bram Stoker's writing.
- \* Read the poem "Totentanz" by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe and consider its use of vampiric themes.
- \* Read and understand chapters 14-27 of *Dracula*.
- \* Connect knowledge of Victorian sciences with knowledge of *Dracula* in a modern day practical situation.

**ASSIGNMENTS:**

<b>DRACULA: The Hunter Becomes the Hunted: Unit Lesson Review Questions</b>	<b>Homework</b>	5 points
<b>DRACULA: The Hunter Becomes the Hunted: Unit Literature Study Questions</b>	<b>Homework</b>	25 points
<b>DRACULA: The Hunter Becomes the Hunted: Lesson Writing Assignment</b>	<b>Homework</b>	15 points
<b>Unit 7 Discussion Assignment 1</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	5 points
<b>Unit 7 Discussion Assignment 2</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	5 points

**Unit 7 Quiz: DRACULA: The Hunter Becomes the Hunted**

**Quiz**

15 points

**Unit 8: EDGAR ALLAN POE: The Monsters In Us**

**Objectives:**

Upon completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- \* Discuss the life of Edgar Allan Poe.
- \* Identify key vocabulary terms from the stories studied in this unit.
- \* Read and understand the short story "The Black Cat."
- \* Read and understand the short story "Berenice."
- \* Connect your knowledge of unit vocabulary creatively with Poe's life and works.

**ASSIGNMENTS:**

<b>EDGAR ALLAN POE: The Monsters In Us: Unit Lesson Review Questions</b>	<b>Homework</b>	5 points
<b>EDGAR ALLAN POE: The Monsters In Us: Unit Literature Study Questions</b>	<b>Homework</b>	25 points
<b>EDGAR ALLAN POE: The Monsters In Us: Lesson Writing Assignment</b>	<b>Homework</b>	25 points
<b>Unit 8 Discussion Assignment 1</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	5 points
<b>Unit 8 Discussion Assignment 2</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	5 points
<b>Unit 8 Quiz: EDGAR ALLAN POE: The Monsters In Us</b>	<b>Quiz</b>	15 points



---

### ***Gothic Literature Final Exam***

#### **Objectives:**

Upon completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- \* **Review information acquired and mastered from this course up to this point.**
- \* **Take a course exam based on material from units five to eight in this course – the last four units. (Note: You will be able to open this exam only one time.)**

#### **ASSIGNMENT:**

<b><i>Gothic Literature Final Exam</i></b>	<b><i>Exam</i></b>	<b>50 points</b>
<b><i>Class Reflection Discussion Assignment</i></b>	<b><i>Discussion</i></b>	<b>10 points</b>