Gothic Literature

Course Overview

This one-semester course has 14 lessons, plus five Course Activities. Each lesson contains one or more Lesson Activities. It explores different conventions, themes, and elements of Gothic literature through the analysis of representative literary works, such as Emily Dickinson's poems about mortality and spirituality, Robert Louis Stevenson's classic Gothic novella *Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, Edgar Allan Poe's Gothic short stories, Bram Stoker's *Dracula*, Robert Browning's Gothic poems, Percy Bysshe Shelley's Gothic drama, *The Cenci*, Mary Shelley's classic Gothic novel, *Frankenstein*, Gothic parodies and Gothic subgenres, and modern Gothic literature.

You will submit the Course Activity documents to your teacher, and you will grade your work in the Lesson Activities by comparing them with sample responses. The Course Activities (submitted to the teacher) and the Lesson Activities (self-checked) are the major components of this course. There are other assessment components, namely the mastery test questions that feature along with the lesson and an end-of-semester test. These mastery test questions are a combination of simple multiple-choice questions and technology enhanced (TE) questions.

Course Goals

This course will help you meet the following goals:

- Learn about Gothic literature and trace the history and development of this literary genre.
- Analyze the Gothic elements in Emily Dickinson's poems.
- Examine the themes and characters of Robert Louis Stevenson's *Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde.*
- Examine the central themes in Edgar Allan Poe's "The Fall of the House of Usher."
- Explore the significance and role of genre in Edgar Allan Poe's short stories "The Black Cat" and "The Cask of Amontillado."
- Analyze the historical and cultural significance of Bram Stoker's *Dracula.*
- Explore how the myth of the vampire has been developed and adapted over time since Bram Stoker's *Dracula.*
- Examine the characteristics of theme and form in Robert Browning's poems.
- Examine the characteristics of the Gothic drama in Percy Bysshe Shelley's *The Cenci*.
- Analyze Mary Shelley's Gothic novel *Frankenstein.*
- Examine the emergence of Gothic parodies as a response to the popularity of the Gothic genre.

- Examine the emergence of Gothic subgenres, such as Southern Gothic and African American Gothic.
- Discuss contemporary Gothic literature.

Prerequisite Skills

Gothic Literature has the following prerequisites:

- basic computer skills
- ability to structure and process information
- familiarity with the writing process and following guidelines

General Skills

To participate in this course, you should be able to do the following:

- Perform basic operations on a computer.
- Perform online research using various search engines and library databases.
- Work with basic word processing software such as Microsoft Word.
- Work with presentation software such as Microsoft PowerPoint.
- Communicate through email and participate in discussion boards.

For a complete list of general skills that are required for participation in online courses, refer to the Prerequisites section of the Plato Student Orientation document, found at the beginning of this course.

Credit Value

Gothic Literature is a 0.5-credit course.

Course Materials

- Notebook
- Computer with Internet connection and speakers or headphones
- Microsoft Word or equivalent

Course Pacing Guide

This course description and pacing guide is intended to help you stay on schedule with your work. Note that your course instructor may modify the schedule to meet the specific needs of your class.

Day	Activity / *Objective*	Type
1 day:	**Syllabus and Plato Student Orientation** *Review the Plato Student Orientation and Course Syllabus at the beginning of this course.*	Course Orientation
4 days: 2-5	**An Introduction to Gothic Literature** *Examine Gothic literature and trace the history and development of this literary genre.*	Lesson
4 days: 6-9	**Mortality and Spirituality in Gothic Poetry** *Analyze the Gothic elements in the poetry of Emily Dickinson.*	Lesson
4 days: 10-13	**Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde** *Examine the themes and characters of Robert Louis Stevenson's* Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde.	Lesson
1 day: 14	**Dual Personalities**	Course Discussion
1 day: 15	**Space Jumble**	Activity
4 days: 16-19	**Comparing Gothic Literature**	Course Activity
3 days: 20-22	**The Fall of the House of Usher** *Examine the central themes in Edgar Allan Poe's "The Fall of the House of Usher."*	Lesson
4 days: 23-26	**Buried Alive and Unreliable Narrators** *Explore the significance and role of genre in Edgar Allan Poe's short stories "The Black Cat" and "The Cask of Amontillado."*	Lesson
1 day: 27	**Edgar Allan Poe**	Course Discussion
1 day: 28	**Para Jumble**	Activity
4 days: 29-32	**Writing a Gothic Story**	Course Activity

Day	Activity / *Objective*	Type
4 days: 33-36	**Dracula Part 1** *Analyze the historical and cultural significance of Bram Stoker's* Dracula.	Lesson
4 days: 37-40	**Dracula Part 2** *Explore how the myth of the vampire has been developed and adapted over time since Bram Stoker's* Dracula.	Lesson
3 days: 41-43	**Passion and Obsession** *Examine the characteristics of theme and form in a variety of poetry by Robert Browning.*	Lesson
4 days: 44-47	**Gothic Drama** *Examine the characteristics of the Gothic drama in* The Cenci*, a tragedy by Percy Bysshe Shelley.*	Lesson
1 day: 48	**Youth and Beauty**	Course Discussion
1 day: 49	**Space Jumble**	Activity
4 days: 50-53	**Gothic Conventions Across Time**	Course Activity
5 days: 54-58	**Frankenstein Part 1** *Begin to analyze Mary Shelley's Gothic novel* Frankenstein.	Lesson
5 days: 59-63	**Frankenstein Part 2** *Continue to analyze Mary Shelley's Gothic novel* Frankenstein.	Lesson
1 day: 64	**Cloning**	Course Discussion
1 day: 65	**Para Jumble**	Activity
5 days: 66-70	**Genders and Communication in *Frankenstein***	Course Activity
4 days: 71-74	**Gothic Parodies** *Examine the emergence of Gothic parodies as a response to the popularity of the Gothic genre.*	Lesson
4 days: 75-78	**Gothic Subgenres** *Examine the emergence of Gothic subgenres, such as Southern Gothic and African American Gothic.*	Lesson

Day	Activity / *Objective*	Type
4 days: 79-82	**Modern Gothic Literature** *Discuss contemporary Gothic literature.*	Lesson
1 day: 83	**The Gothic**	Course Discussion
1 day: 84	**Space Jumble**	Activity
4 days: 85-88	**Gothic Subgenres and Parodies**	Course Activity
1 day: 89	**Course Review**	
1 day: 90	**End-of-Semester Test**	Assessment