

DR. DAVID H. WILSON, PH.D. AND PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH

📍 248 Dwyer Hall, Lake Campus

☎ 419.586.0317

✉ david.wilson@wright.edu

🌐 dharlanwilson.com

COURSE DESCRIPTION

ENGLISH 2040 studies four major gothic novels that combine elements of fantasy, horror, and romance while thematizing the role of monsters. In *The Monster Theory Reader*, Jeffrey Weinstock writes:

From the mythical monstrous races of the ancient world to the murderous cyborgs of our day, monsters have haunted the human imagination, giving shape to the fears and desires of their time. As long as there have been monsters, there have been attempts to make sense of them, to explain where they come from and what they mean.

You have probably heard of some of the books assigned in this course, if only because of their film adaptations. By way of essays, reviews, short stories, and reading-comprehension quizzes, you will view the books in their cultural and historical frameworks, engaging with them as formal pieces of literature.

You may email me with questions at any time. I usually answer within 24 hours, if not sooner, on the condition that emails are written in complete sentences and free of mechanical errors. Please do not email me in textspeak. This is a college writing course. Make sure your queries are polished and professional and I will promptly address your concerns. I want to see everybody excel. I'm here as a resource, but too frequently, students in my online courses don't contact me when they encounter difficulties. Students who do make an effort to connect with me, however, invariably get better grades.

- 🔄 This is an online course with clear deadlines for all assignments; as long as you are attentive to these deadlines, you may work at your own pace. I am available by email or by appointment for consultation. The course is run via **Pilot**, WSU's online learning platform.

HOW TO SUCCEED IN THIS COURSE

In general, I expect three simple things from students: [1] follow the directions for all assignments; [2] turn in all assignments on time; [3] demonstrate that you have put effort into your work. If you follow these rules, it is unlikely that you will receive less than a B in this course. In many cases, following these rules will render an A.

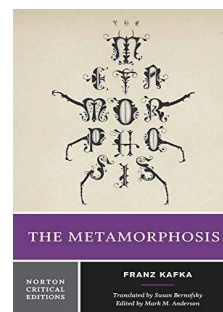
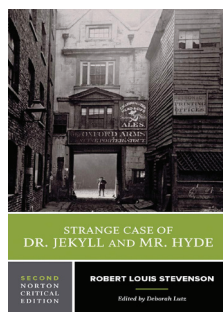
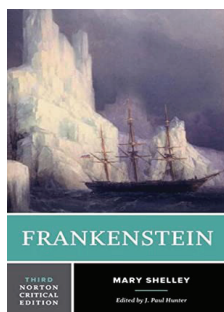
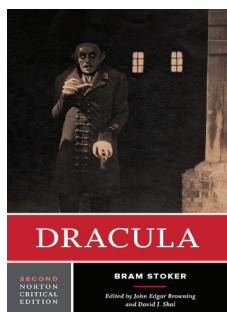
TEXTS

Bram Stoker. *Dracula*. 1897. 2nd Edition. ISBN 9780393679205.

Mary Shelley. *Frankenstein*. 1818. 3rd Edition. ISBN 9780393644029.

Robert Louis Stevenson. *Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*. 1886. 2nd Edition. ISBN 9780393679212.

Franz Kafka. *The Metamorphosis*. 1915. 1st Edition. ISBN 9780393923209.



☑ All texts are the latest Norton Critical Editions and include ample supplementary criticism. It is essential that you use these editions as some of your assignments will ask you to read and write about the criticism.

CORE LEARNING OUTCOMES

This course is part of the **Wright State Core**. The elements of the Core are the foundational skills, the broad areas of knowledge and practice, and the global, historical, and cultural perspectives that together provide WSU students with the ability to negotiate their roles successfully and constructively in a changing world. In this course, students can expect to do the following: [1] critically analyze significant creative, literary, philosophical, or religious works; [2] understand and discuss the complex blend of imaginative vision, socio-cultural context, ethical values, and aesthetic judgment in creative, philosophical, or religious works; [3] recognize, evaluate, and respond to creative, philosophical, or religious works; and [4] develop appropriate and ethical applications of knowledge in the humanities or the arts.

INTEGRATED WRITING OUTCOMES

This is an **Integrated Writing (IW)** course. After completing it, students should be able to produce writing that demonstrates their understanding of course content, that is appropriate for the audience and purpose of a particular writing task, that reveals a fluency in disciplinary-writing conventions appropriate to the course (including documentation conventions), and that shows competency in standard edited American English.

COURSE EVALUATION

Course grades are based on a points system. As I grade your work, Pilot tallies the points so that you may gauge your performance at any time during the semester. At the end of the semester, points will be converted to percentages, and percentages will be converted to letter grades. Here is the grading rubric:

A 90.0-100% • **B** 80.0-89.9% • **C** 70.0-79.9% • **D** 60.0-69.9% • **F** 0-59.9%

ASSIGNMENTS

In addition to quizzes that test your comprehension of literary criticism about the novels, you will complete different writing assignments for each novel. Be sure to read the directions for assignments slowly and carefully, digesting the material before taking action.

🕒 Every **Friday at 8 a.m.**, a piece of writing or quiz is due.

Writing will be graded on content as well as proper grammar and syntax. Format documents according to **MLA Style**. Always revise and polish your work before submitting it.

All work must be completed on time in order to receive a grade. Assignments submitted after their due dates have elapsed (whether it be one day, ten days, or one minute) will not be accepted. Due dates are available from the beginning to the end of the course on Pilot so that you can organize and manage your time. Plan accordingly; I expect you to be responsible, self-sufficient, and professional. Never wait until the last minute to submit work in case of computer glitches, personal emergencies, or other issues that might arise.

While it is not required, I encourage you to email me drafts of your writing prior to the due date. I will provide extensive feedback. You may not revise and resubmit work once it has been uploaded to the Dropbox. Be sure to send me drafts at least **48 hours** before the due date so that you have ample time to think about and integrate my editorial input. All drafts must be sent to me as Microsoft Word **DOC files** and attached directly onto WSU email. Please do not share or send PDF documents. Shared files have crashed my computer in the past, and it's much easier for me to provide comments on DOCs.

There will be weeks where your workload is heavier than others. On weeks with lighter workloads, read and write ahead. Again, plan accordingly. I strongly encourage you to study the entire schedule for the semester and regularly monitor what is on the horizon. This is crucial for any online class.

FILM SCREENINGS

You will write two reviews about film adaptations of *Dracula* and *Frankenstein*. You are responsible for renting or purchasing these films, both of which can be cheaply accessed via Amazon Prime, Apple TV, and other streaming services.

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism occurs when a writer: [1] copies verbatim from an author without quotation or attempts to disguise the act by selective omissions or alterations; [2] paraphrases from an author without naming the source in the text of the paper or providing a list of references at the end; [3] turns in a paper written by somebody else. As a point of academic integrity, you are required to submit original material of your own creation. Plagiarism is a serious offense. If established with sufficient evidence, it can result in failure of the course or dismissal from the university.

Pilot is equipped with an originality checker that sniffs out plagiarized text like a bloodhound. Do your own work. This includes effectively citing and paraphrasing sources. A word-for-word citation that is not

enclosed in quotation marks constitutes plagiarism as much as an essay written by somebody else. Always contact me with questions about plagiarism.

- ☞ Any work created or composed by **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** is considered plagiarism. New and exciting developments with AI will find a place in our workforces and personal lives, but in the realm of education and learning, this technology is deeply problematic. The use of AI obstructs our ability to learn from life experiences, to play with creative freedom, to solve problems, and to cultivate ideas in authentic ways. More specifically, we are creatures of language, and AI impedes the development of intelligence and imagination by handing words and sentences to us on a silver platter. This impediment is worsened when users don't know the meaning of the words an AI gives them. College is a place for learning. This class in particular is a place for learning how to improve reading and writing skills. AI simply cannot do that learning for us.

OFFICE OF DISABILITIES SERVICES (ODS)

At WSU-Lake Campus, we are committed to diversity and inclusion, and we strive to ensure an accessible, successful academic journey for students. If you anticipate or experience disability-related barriers, contact the Office of Disability Services. Website: lake.wright.edu/campus-life/disability-services. Email: ods-lake@wright.edu. Phone: **419.586.0392**.

STUDENT SUCCESS CENTER (SSC)

The Student Success Center offers FREE services to help students meet their full potential. Students can find tutoring in any subject, study buddies, one-on-one technology workshops, feedback on writing assignments, and general academic skills coaching. Website: lake.wright.edu/ssc. Email: ssc-lake@wright.edu. Phone: **419.586.0333**. Location: **182 Andrews Hall**.

LIBRARY AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER (LTC)

The Library and Technology Center provides free access to scholarly resources in all formats. Students can also visit the LTC for assistance with creating or editing multimedia projects (i.e., PowerPoint, voiceovers, website development, etc.). Phone: **419.586.0333**. Location: **192 Andrews Hall**.

CLASS CALENDAR

DRACULA

- 1** READ: *Dracula*
QUIZ: Syllabus
- 2** ESSAY: Gothic Fiction
- 3** QUIZ: Jack Halberstam, "Technologies of Monstrosity: Bram Stoker's *"Dracula"*
- 4** REVIEW: *Bram Stoker's Dracula* (1992)

FRANKENSTEIN

- 5** READ: *Frankenstein*

FALL 2023

- 6** STORY: Elizabeth Lavenza
- 7** QUIZ: Bette London, "Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*, and the Spectacle of Masculinity"
- 8** REVIEW: *Mary Shelley's Frankenstein* (1994)

STRANGE CASE OF DR. JEKYLL AND MR. HYDE

- 9** READ: *Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*
- 10** STORY: Local Retelling
- 11** QUIZ: Elaine Showalter, "Dr. Jekyll's Closet"

THE METAMORPHOSIS

- 12** READ: *The Metamorphosis*
- 13** THANKSGIVING
- 14** ESSAY: Cover Analysis
- 15** QUIZ: Walter H. Sokel, "Kafka's 'Metamorphosis': Rebellion and Punishment"