



ENGLISH 2040: GREAT BOOKS

Professor	David H. Wilson
Office	248 Dwyer
Phone	419.586.0317
Office Hours	MT 11-1 and by appointment
Email	david.wilson@wright.edu
Website	dharlanwilson.com
Pilot	pilot.wright.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This section of English 2040 studies classic “chillers and thrillers,” especially works of gothic literature and dark romanticism, speculative melodramas that combine elements of fantasy, horror and romance. You have probably heard of some of them, if only because of their film adaptations. By way of literary identification, online discussions, and writing about secondary criticism, you will view texts in their social and historical frameworks while engaging with them as pieces of literary fiction.

IMPORTANT NOTE: 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. In addition to my office hours, I am available by email and by appointment for personal consultation.

Vital contextual information for the course is located on Pilot. Click on **Content > Table of Contents > Introduction**. Read the introduction closely and carefully.

TEXTS

Bram Stoker. *Dracula*. 1897.

Mary Shelley. *Frankenstein*. 1818.

Robert Louis Stevenson. *Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*. 1886.

H.G. Wells. *The Time Machine*. 1895.

Franz Kafka. *The Metamorphosis*. 1915.

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

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:

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

WRITING STANDARDS

- A** The student's writing is consistently superior and expresses independent thought with grace, clarity and force. Words are used with precision and suited to the purposes of the assignment. Writing is free of mechanical errors in grammar, spelling and punctuation.
- B** The student's writing is above average in thought and expression, demonstrating a clear understanding and execution of the assignment's directions; however, it is not consistently superior in depth of thought, effectiveness of development, and mechanical savvy.
- C** The student's writing is acceptable as college work but lacks an original, significant purpose or point-of-view. It exhibits inadequate support of generalizations, slipshod or hurried style, poor attention to detail, straying from directions, or mechanical errors.
- D** The student's writing meets minimum standards. Work is often underwritten and/or marred by confused purpose, lack of organization, repetition of ideas, improper use of words, and frequent grammatical, spelling and punctuation errors.
- F** The student's writing does not meet minimum standards.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

English 2040 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

English 2040 is an Integrated Writing (IW) course. After completing it, students should be able to produce writing that demonstrates their understanding of course content, is appropriate for the audience and purpose of a particular writing task, demonstrates the degree of mastery of disciplinary writing conventions pertinent to the course (including documentation conventions), and shows competency in standard edited American English.

ASSIGNMENTS

Over the span of fifteen weeks, you will complete three assignments per text, which amounts to one assignment per week. These assignments will generally involve the following: identifying central elements, events or themes in a text, composing short essays or responses to writing prompts, engaging in online discussions, and writing about secondary articles or reviews of a text. Specific details (including due dates) for each assignment are located in the Dropbox on Pilot.

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 of any material is a serious offense and, if established with sufficient evidence, can result in failure of the course or dismissal from the university.

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. Web: lake.wright.edu/ssc. Phone: **419.586.0333**. Location: **182 Andrews**.

OFFICE OF DISABILITIES SERVICES (ODS)

If a student has a disability that requires special accommodations, it is essential that he or she discuss it with the instructor and the Office of Disability Services before or during the first week of the semester. ODS will work with these students on an individual basis to determine what services, equipment and accommodations would be appropriate regarding their documented needs. Students who qualify for these types of service should initiate contact with the instructor and/or ODS as soon as possible to enable the university to meet their needs. Please call Deanna Springer at **419.586.0366** or email her at deanna.springer@wright.edu. For more information, visit the ODS in **182 Andrews**.

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: **419.586.8400**. Location: **197A Andrews Hall**.

CLASS CALENDAR

While you will be working on the similar types of assignments for each text, you will of course be thinking and writing about different material. Here is a weekly breakdown:

- 1 *Dracula* (Identification: Characterization and Response)
- 2 *Dracula* (Discussion: Gothic Fiction)
- 3 *Dracula* (Summaries: “*Dracula: The Unseen Face in the Mirror*” and ““Kiss Me with Those Red Lips’: Gender and Inversion in Bram Stoker’s *Dracula*”)
- 4 *Frankenstein* (Identification: Character Sketches and Response)
- 5 *Frankenstein* (Discussion: Film vs. Novel)
- 6 *Frankenstein* (Summaries: “*Frankenstein* and the Tradition of Realism” and “Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*, and the Spectacle of Masculinity)
- 7 *Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* (Identification: Responses)
- 8 *Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* (Discussion: Creative Writing)
- 9 *Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* (Summaries: “An Unconscious Allegory about the Masses and Mass Literacy” and “Sex, Secrecy and Self-Annihilation in *Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*”)
- 10 *The Time Machine* (Identification: Short Essay)
- 11 *The Time Machine* (Discussion: Science Fiction)
- 12 *The Time Machine* (Summaries: “Eat or Be Eaten: H.G. Wells’s *The Time Machine*” and “*The Time Machine* and Wells’s Social Trajectory”)
- 13 *The Metamorphosis* (Identification: Short Essay)
- 14 THANKSGIVING BREAK
- 15 *The Metamorphosis* (Discussion: Cover Image Analysis)
- E *The Metamorphosis* (Summaries: “Kafka’s ‘Metamorphosis’: Rebellion and Punishment” and “Transforming Franz Kafka’s ‘Metamorphosis’”)