

Professor Karen Winstead
W/F 12:45-2:05, Baker Systems 120
Office Hours: M 9:30-11 AM; F 11:00-12:30 and by appointment
Office: Denney Hall 532
Email: winstead.2@osu.edu

English 3378

Monsters Without and Within

Classic Monsters

Beowulf

- Jan 9 Introduction to the course
Beowulf: English literature's first horror story
- Jan 11 The monsters without
- Text: *Beowulf* (ca. 750-950CE)
- Jan 16 Men, women, and monsters (Quiz 1)
Jan 18 "The scop got it wrong"
- Film: Robert Zemeckis, *Beowulf* (2007; 114 minutes)

Frankenstein

- Jan 23 Monsters we create (Quiz 2)
Jan 25 Monstrous creators and their creatures
- Reading: Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein* (1818 edition)
- Jan 30 Whale's *Frankenstein*: Abuse, abandonment, and monstrosity (Quiz 3)
Feb 1 New "Creatures": Androids, Machines, Zombies
- Film: James Whale, *Frankenstein* (1931, 70 min)

Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde

- Feb 6 Our monstrous selves (Quiz 4)
Feb 8 Monstrous romance

Reading: Robert Louis Stevenson, *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* (1886)
Film: Rouben Mamoulian, *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* (1931; 98 min)

Feb 11

Paper 1 due in Carmen Dropbox by 11 PM

Vampires

Dracula

Feb 13 Bram Stoker and the vampire tradition (Quiz 5)

Feb 15 “Transylvania is not England”!

Reading: Stoker, *Dracula* (1897) (Focus on chapters 1-16)

Feb 20 Expressionism and horror (Quiz 6)

Feb 22 Horror and desire

Film: F. W. Murnau, *Nosferatu* (1922; 81 minutes)

Feb 27 Revisiting *Nosferatu* (Quiz 7)

March 1 *Dracula*’s heirs and descendants

Film: Werner Herzog, *Nosferatu* (1979; 107 minutes)

I Am Legend

March 6 Who’s *really* the monster? (Quiz 8)

March 8 From vampires to zombies

Reading: Richard Matheson, *I Am Legend* (1954)

Film: Francis Lawrence, *I Am Legend* (2007; 101 minutes)

March 11-15 Spring Break

Let the Right One In

March 20 Vampires and/in society (Quiz 9)

March 22 Predators among us

Reading: John Ajvide Lindqvist, *Let the Right One In* (2004/7)

March 27 The right one (Quiz 10)

March 29 Friendship and monstrosity

Film: Thomas Alfredson, *Let the Right One In* (2008; 115 minutes)

Monsters: Without or Within

April 1 Paper 2 due in Carmen Dropbox by 11PM

Turn of the Screw

April 3 Innocence and monstrosity (Quiz 11)

April 5 Innocence revisited

Reading: Henry James, *Turn of the Screw* (1898)

Film: Jack Clayton, *The Innocents* (1961, 100 minutes)

The Shining

April 10 Ghosts and memories (Quiz 12)

April 12 Redemption

Reading: Stephen King, *The Shining* (1977)

April 17 Literary, filmic, and psychic hauntings (Quiz 13)

April 19 The End: Fire vs. Ice

Film: Stanley Kubrick, *The Shining* (1980; 142 minutes)

April 22 Conclusion & Review (Quiz 14)

April 25 FINAL EXAM, 12-1:45

Overview

Storytellers have long used monsters not only to frighten us but also to jolt us into thinking more deeply about ourselves, others, and the world we live in. No film can be totally faithful to a written source; filmmakers perform use different methods than do writers to tell their stories, to thrill and provoke. However, this course focuses on films that aggressively transform their literary sources—reinterpreting characters and retooling plots to create monsters that offer different visions of what we have to fear and of how we can (or cannot) overcome the monsters without and within. Our readings and viewings will encompass American, British, and Continental European works, both old and new.

Readings

Beowulf

Stevenson, *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*

Shelley, *Frankenstein* (1818)

Stoker, *Dracula*

Lindqvist, *Let the Right One In*

Matheson, *I Am Legend*

James, *Turn of the Screw*

King, *The Shining*

Films

Films are available at <http://drm.osu.edu>. You'll need to log in with your OSU username and password, then click on "Assigned Playlists" underneath the "Secured Media Library" heading.

Requirements

Weekly quizzes on the lectures (40%), two 1000-word essays (15% each), and a final exam (30%)

Open-book/notes quizzes on the lectures for each week will be posted on Carmen. You will have until noon of the following week's Wednesday to complete each quiz, which will be available at least 24 hours before that deadline. These quizzes will usually have 10 multiple-choice questions, and you will have 5 minutes to complete each quiz. There will be no make-up quizzes, but your lowest 2 scores will be dropped when computing your quiz grade.

A short paper is due after each of the first two units of the course. These 1000-word papers should treat some facet of the texts/films/themes covered in the unit. The topic is up to you, but your essay should deal with literary AND cinematic representations of the monstrous. It should be *analytical* rather than *evaluative*—that is, you should not opine about whether the book or movie is "better," but rather examine how the versions differ and what those differences reveal about their creators' agendas and world views. Avoid generalizing about the past (e.g., "Back in the 1930s, people were more easily frightened/more sexist/less sensitive/whatever than they are today.") Your paper must have a thesis (a central claim) that is clearly stated at the beginning of the paper and argued for **with specific examples from the film(s) and literary text(s)**. Be sure to **PROOFREAD** your papers. **Your grade will be lowered (in extreme cases even failed) for typos and errors in grammar and spelling.**

Final Exam: The final exam will be cumulative and will include objective short-answer questions and an interpretative essay.

GEC

This course satisfies GE Category 2, "Culture and Ideas"

Disability Services

The Office for Disability Services, located in 150 Pomerene Hall, offers services for students with documented disabilities. Contact the ODS at 2-3307.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the representation of another's works or ideas as one's own. It includes unacknowledged word-for-word use and/or paraphrasing of another person's work, and/or inappropriate, unacknowledged use of another person's ideas. All cases of suspected plagiarism will, in accordance with university rules, be reported to the Committee on Academic Misconduct.

Course Evaluations

OSU will ask you to fill out online evaluations near the end of the quarter.