

Fall 2010
Maybeck High School
Room 204

Nina LaCour
nina.lacour@gmail.com
Office Hours: TBD

Advanced English: Gothic Literature

Welcome to Gothic Literature. Prepare to be terrified, captivated, angered, challenged, and amused by this semester's readings. Though the Gothic novel originated in the later-eighteenth-century as part of the Romantic period, it is by no means limited to that literary period. Our major texts will be as follows:

The Castle of Otranto by Horace Walpole (1764)
Northanger Abbey by Jane Austen (1818)
Selected stories and poems by Edgar Allen Poe (1831-1845)
Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte (1847)
Carmilla by Joseph Sheridan Le Fanu (1872)
The Picture of Dorian Gray by Oscar Wilde (1891)
The Yellow Wallpaper by Charlotte Perkins Gilman (1892)
The Turn of the Screw by Henry James (1898)

We will also read short excerpts from other prominent works, including:

A Philosophical Enquiry into the Origin of Our Ideas of the Sublime and Beautiful by Edmund Burke (1757)
The Mysteries of Udolpho by Ann Radcliffe (1794)
The Monk by Matthew Gregory Lewis (1796)
Wieland by Charles Brockden Brown (1798)
Frankenstein by Mary Shelley (1818)

Elements of the Gothic are rife in films of horror and psychological suspense. To compliment our study of literature, we will watch a few of these films to better understand the influence the Gothic has on our culture, and how it has shaped what we consider to be frightening. (Films are TBA.)

Work and Points*:

<i>Category</i>	<i>Weight</i>
Reading Quizzes	15%
Informal in-class writings and participation in discussions	15% (Participation)
Summer Assignment	5%
(2) Five-page papers	25%
Ten-page analytical paper	20%
Comprehensive Final	20%

Participation is key component to this class. I hope and expect that you will all participate in discussions, listen closely to your classmates and to me, take notes when appropriate, demonstrate effort during in-class writing assignments, and give your classmates thoughtful feedback on their drafts.

*Please note that this list is subject to change.

Homework Policy

Be sure to plan ahead when turning in assignments; extensions will not be granted due to computer or printer problems.

Essays and other major assignments will drop by a full grade for each school day they are late until they fall to 50%.

Consistent preparation for English classes requires organization and self-discipline. Please consult with your teacher if you are having trouble meeting the expectations of your class.

Materials

You will need a binder or binder section devoted to Gothic Lit. Keep all handouts and worksheets—they will help you prepare for your final exam! Always have writing materials and our current book in class, as well as your student calendars for recording homework assignments.

Academic Honesty

I expect that the work you turn in is entirely your own. If you are using other people's words or ideas, you need to cite them properly. Cheating, copying from a classmate, or attempting to disguise other people's words or ideas as your own may result in an F in the

class, placement on a contract, or expulsion from the school. If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism, don't hesitate to ask me.

Keys to Success

I am confident that all of you have the potential to succeed in this class. Below is a short list of suggestions to help you reach that potential.

Communication Always let me know if you are having trouble meeting deadlines or following along in class. I will work with you to help you through any difficulties you may have.

Tenacity No matter how difficult a book or assignment is, don't give up!

Respect Treat your classmates, yourself, and me with respect. Listen when others are speaking. Consider ideas that differ from your own. Allow yourself to ask for help or clarification when you need it.