

IDST 2305.01: The Gothic Imagination
Spring 2003 (CSN 20784)
9:00-9:50 MWF, Arts & Sciences Building , Room 2-75

Instructor: Robert Viau, Ph.D., Professor of English & Interdisciplinary Studies, Assistant Director, Honors & Scholars Program

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Course Website: www.faculty.de.gcsu.edu/~rviau/GothicIm.html

Office Hours: 10:00-12:00 MWF & other times by appointment

Instructor: Greg Pepetone, Ph.D., Professor of Music & Interdisciplinary Studies

Office: Porter Fine Arts

Phone: 445-2744 (office)

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Office Hours: TBA

Course Objectives:

To define the gothic in art, both historically and aesthetically

To link the contemporary gothic imagination to its historical antecedents

To explain the psychological and aesthetic appeal of the gothic in the arts

To place the quest for the gothic within the larger context of Western cultural and intellectual history

To expose students to a representative sample of the art that has shaped and defined the gothic imagination and to the artists who created it

To honor the cultural diversity and richness that make education such a daring and challenging enterprise

To honor reason, respect, and responsibility

To foster critical thinking, writing, and speaking skills

Required Texts:

Lawrence, J. and Robert Lee. *The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail*. New York: Bantam, 2001.

Oates, Joyce Carol, ed. *American Gothic Tales*. New York: Plume, 1996.

Pepetone, Gregory. *Gothic Perspectives on the American Experience*. New York: Peter Lang, 2002.

Rice, Anne. *Violin*. New York: Ballantine, 1998.

Tutuolo, Amos. *The Palm-Wine Drinkard*. New York: Grove, 1952.

Walpole, Horace. *The Castle of Otranto*. London: Everyman, 1998.

Other Requirements:

Internet Access to the course website and WebCT:

<http://www.faculty.de.gcsu.edu/~rviau/GothicIm.html>

WebCT available at my faculty web page <http://www.faculty.de.gcsu.edu/~rviau> or from the pull-down menu for students on <http://info.gcsu.edu/>

iPod ® MP3 Player (Supplied by GC&SU for this semester only—Please See Policies Below)

PLEASE NOTE: IN CASE OF FIRE (OR FIRE ALARM):

**Turn off electric devices except computers
Exit classroom, closing doors behind
Go to nearest hallway exit and leave the building
DO NOT USE ELEVATORS**

Schedule of Daily Readings and Due Dates:

PLEASE NOTE: The assignments and due dates on this syllabus are subject to change. All changes will be announced in class and posted on line. The **On-Line Syllabus** posted on WebCT is authoritative. Check it frequently for updates.

Week 1: Getting Started

Day 1 (F, 1/3): Course Overview

Week 2: Getting Started & Historical Overview

Day 2 (M, 1/6): View *X-Files* episode “Grotesque”

Day 3 (W, 1/8): *X-Files* Workshop

Day 4 (F, 1/10): Gothic and Gothic Revival Architecture

WebCT Assignments: Introduction to WebCT & X-Files Workshop

iPod Listening Assignments: Pick Up iPod in Office of Instructional Technology, 131 Kilpatrick Building

Week 3: Historical Overview

Day 5 (M, 1/13): Broad Gothic Art

Day 6 (W, 1/15): Characteristics of Gothic Music

Day 7 (F, 1/17): Gothic Literature; Horace Walpole, Strawberry Hill, and *The Castle of Otranto*

WebCT Assignments: Historical Overview

iPod Listening Assignments: Gregorian Chant, Hildegard von Bingen, Thomas Tallis

Week 4: Historical Overview

(M, 9/20): MLK Holiday

Day 8 (W, 1/22): Discuss *Castle of Otranto*

Day 9 (F, 1/24): *Castle of Otranto*

WebCT Assignments: Historical Overview

iPod Listening Assignments: TBA

Week 5: Death & Dying

Day 10 (M, 1/27): Death & Dying in Art & Architecture

Day 11 (W, 1/29): Death & Dying in Music

Day 12 (F, 1/31): Death & Dying in Literature

WebCT Assignments: TBA

iPod Assignments: TBA

Week 6: Death & Dying

Day 13 (M, 2/3): Watch *X-Files* "Shape Shifter" (Werewolf)

Day 14 (W, 2/5): Discussion

Day 15 (F, 2/7): Recital in Max Noah Auditorium (Porter Fine Arts Building)

WebCT Assignments: TBA

iPod Assignments: TBA

Week 7: The Gothic Hero

Day 16 (M, 2/10): Nathaniel Hawthorne, "Man of Adamant," (*American Gothic Tales*, 45-51)

Day 17 (W, 2/12): Caspar David Friedrich's *Monk By the Sea, Traveler Overlooking a Sea of Clouds*, and other paintings

Day 18 (F, 2/14): Edgar Allen Poe, "The Black Cat," (*AGT*, 78-86)

WebCT Assignments: TBA

iPod Assignments: TBA

Week 8: The Gothic Hero

Day 19 (M, 2/17): Charlotte Perkins Gilman, "The Yellow Wallpaper," (*AGT*, 87-102)

Day 20 (W, 2/19): William Goyen, "The Icebound Hothouse" (*AGT*, 242-252)

Day 21 (F, 2/21): Excerpt from *Weiland*

WebCT Assignments: TBA

iPod Assignments: TBA

Week 9: The Gothic Hero

Day 22 (M, 2/24): Anne Rice, *Violin*

Day 23 (W, 2/26): *Violin*

Day 24 (F, 2/28): *The Black Cat* (film)

WebCT Assignments: TBA

iPod Assignments: TBA

SPRING BREAK!!! 3-7 March

Week 10: The Grotesque & Fantastic

Day 25 (M, 3/10): Art & Architecture: Bosch, Breughel the Elder and the Northern Renaissance; Dali, Magrite, and Surrealism

Day 26 (W, 3/12): Amos Tutuolo, *The Palm-Wine Drinkard*

Day 27 (F, 3/14): *The Palm-Wine Drinkard*

WebCT Assignments: TBA

iPod Assignments: TBA

Week 11: The Grotesque & Fantastic

Day 28 (M, 3/17): Open

Day 29 (W, 3/19): Open

Day 30 (F, 10/21): The Grotesque & Fantastic in Music

WebCT Assignments: TBA

iPod Assignments: TBA

Week 12: The Political Gothic

Day 31 (M, 3/24): Clips from *X-Files*, *Witch Blade*, etc.

Day 32 (W, 3/26): Clips & Discussion

Day 33 (F, 3/28): Lawrence & Lee, *The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail*

WebCT Assignments: TBA

iPod Assignments: TBA

Week 13: The Political Gothic

Day 34 (M, 3/31): *The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail*

Day 35 (W, 4/2): *Gods & Monsters* (film)

Day 36 (F, 4/4): *Gods & Monsters*

WebCT Assignments: TBA

iPod Assignments: TBA

Week 14: Political Gothic

Day 37 (M, 4/7): *Gods & Monsters*

Day 38 (W, 4/9): Open

Day 39 (F, 4/11): **Late Semester Exam**

WebCT Assignments: TBA

iPod Assignments: TBA

Week 15: Political Gothic

Day 40 (M, 4/14): Peppone, *Gothic Perspectives on the American Experience*

Day 41 (W, 4/16): *Gothic Perspectives on the American Experience*

Day 42 (F, 4/18): *Gothic Perspectives on the American Experience*

WebCT Assignments: TBA

iPod Assignments: TBA

Week 16: Political Gothic

Day 43 (M, 4/21): Open for Course Synthesis

Day 44 (W, 4/23): Open for Course Synthesis

Day 45 (F, 4/25): Open for Course Synthesis

Final Exam TBA (20%)

Course Policies and Procedures:

Attendance is Required. Because this course has been very carefully designed with sequenced assignments and cumulative material, your regular attendance is required. More than three unexcused absences will result in a lower grade. Six or more will result in failure.

Class Participation/Collaboration (30%). In addition to regular attendance, you are expected to participate in daily classroom activities as well as outside events. Here are several options and opportunities; more will emerge as the semester develops.

Discussion. To become involved in class discussion, of course, you must be fully prepared.

This means that you must have read all required course materials and thought about them.

Then you must exert yourself in class by asking questions, answering them, and generally showing an interest in the on-going activities of the class.

Collaborative Workshops. Several times this quarter you will have an opportunity to interact with fellow students in small groups. You will be given questions, prompts, etc. in the hope that you will actively become involved in a process of discovery with the class.

Whether or not you do become involved may affect your class participation grade.

Special Cultural Events : I will occasionally announce extracurricular events that I would like you to attend, either because they relate somehow to our course materials or because your attendance might introduce you to some new way of enhancing your liberal arts experience. If you attend these events, make sure that you contact me directly (during intermission or after the event) to make sure that you get credit. Notifying me the next day or even later will not work. Make contact. I will announce more particulars on this course feature later in the semester.

WebCT (30%): Beginning immediately, you must log on to the GC&SU WebCT site for this course and start posting messages in response to the WebCT unit assignments. You will receive a numerical grade for your performance in each of the units included in the WebCT folder for the course. Half of your WebCT grade will consist of the average of these unit grades; the other half

will consist of my assessment of the “quality” of your postings. I will periodically give you feedback on posting quality so that you will know how you are supposed to “engage” the material.

Most WebCT assignments will be time sensitive: if you do not post the required message before class time, you cannot post it at all (and usually you will not be able to post the message until you have read a particular assignment or performed a set of tasks).

Make sure that you check all WebCT unit requirements regularly and complete your postings on time. Also, make sure that your postings are not merely perfunctory. Your WebCT grade will depend on timeliness, quantity, and quality. Merely going through the motions of making the required postings will earn you an appropriate grade: 70.

Begin WebCT by going directly to the following site:

<http://www.faculty.de.gcsu.edu:8900/webct/public/home.pl>

You can also get there by visiting the GCSU Info. Page, thus:

<http://info.gcsu.edu/>

and then pulling down the menu for “Sites for Students.” Once you arrive at the official GCSU WebCT Page, just follow the instructions for logging on.

Once in the Gothic Imagination Site, **always go to the Homepage first** to look for important messages, reminders, and other prompts. Then check the Course Units, Discussions, Grades, etc.

Near the end of the semester you will have an opportunity to submit extra credit postings in several units of WebCT currently under development.

You might think of WebCT as your “course portfolio,” the site that holds all of your work for public and some private inspection and evaluation. Develop a routine so that you make your postings regularly and fully. Always feel free to react to other students’ postings by sending a reply (visible to everyone in the class) and perhaps beginning a dialogue. You will observe me doing this very thing periodically throughout the semester. Stay actively involved in the WebCT portion of the course and you will develop critical thinking and writing skills that may help you compensate for silence during class.

iPod Use: Some of your weekly assignments will involve listening exercises using the iPods. In a few days you will receive separate documentation on iPod use, responsibility, etc. Meanwhile, please remember that the iPods are State property, the result of a grant from Apple and the Board of Regents. Treat your iPod as you would treat any expensive electronic device that you borrow from someone else: that is, with great care! YOU are responsible for your iPod. If you lose or break it, you must buy it. Also, if you fail to return it at the end of the semester, you will receive an “I” (incomplete) for the course and a HOLD will be placed on your academic record.

Each week there will be some required items for listening as well as a variety of optional items. Also, some WebCT assignments will require you to relate a specific piece of music to a painting or literary work. In these real “interdisciplinary” connections lie some of the most amazing potential discoveries of the course.

As the semester progresses, I invite you to come to me with music (or music videos) that you think fit under the embrace of the Gothic Imagination, whether “serious” music by recognized composers or so called “pop” music such as that of Nine Inch Nails, Kiss, Cure, Tori Amos, and other groups. “Keep an ear out” for music that deliberately strives to make listeners uncomfortable and distressed, or to feel “dis -ease,” and music that is complex, ambiguous, and unsettling.

I can load your music onto the “Mother iPod” for you to download to your own iPods, so that YOU can help build the musical content of this course. Anything in audio format that can be digitized will work on the iPod.

Mid Semester Exam (10%) and Late Semester Exam (10%): There will be two exams in addition to the comprehensive final exam. These exams may include identification (of literature, art, and music), short answer, and essay, but essay usually dominates in the allocation of both time and points. The quality of your writing is important, as is the case in every college course you take, whether or not your other professors acknowledge this to be true. I expect your writing to be clear and grammatically correct.

Final Exam (20%): The final exam will be comprehensive. It too may consist of identification, short answer, and essay.

Final Grade Summary:

Class Participation/Collaboration	30%	
WebCT	30%	
Mid-Semester Exam		10%
Late Semester Exam	10%	
Final Exam (Comprehensive)	20%	

Attendance is required: Please see above.

Good Luck! And please see me if you have questions!