

# ENGL C297: AMERICAN GOTHIC LITERATURE

Item	Value
Curriculum Committee Approval Date	11/20/2009
Top Code	150300 - Comparative Literature
Units	3 Total Units
Hours	54 Total Hours (Lecture Hours 54)
Total Outside of Class Hours	0
Course Credit Status	Credit: Degree Applicable (D)
Material Fee	No
Basic Skills	Not Basic Skills (N)
Repeatable	No
Open Entry/Open Exit	No
Grading Policy	Standard Letter (S), • Pass/No Pass (B)
Local General Education (GE)	• Area 3B Humanities (CC2)
California General Education Transfer Curriculum (Cal-GETC)	• Cal-GETC 3B Humanities (3B)
Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC)	• IGETC 3B Humanities (3B)
California State University General Education Breadth (CSU GE-Breadth)	• CSU C2 Humanities (C2)

## Course Description

This course is a survey of Gothic literature, concentrating on critically-acclaimed novels written during the 20th century in the United States. Students will study Nobel Prize winner Toni Morrison's *Beloved*, *The Shining* by Stephen King, and Jeffrey Eugenides's *The Virgin Suicides*. The course will also study the 19th-century short story "Carmilla," which illustrates vampire themes, and compare the story's literary conventions to contemporary American Gothic themes. Transfer Credit: CSU; UC.

## Course Level Student Learning Outcome(s)

1. Appraise the evolution of the contemporary Gothic genre and its core themes.
2. Evaluate selected contemporary Gothic texts in terms of gender, class, and race.

## Course Objectives

- 1. Analyze early Gothic conventions and the Victorian period's influence on the formation of Gothic literature.
- 2. Examine Gothic conventions and influence in American literature with sub-themes of horror, the '60s, slavery, and depression.

## Lecture Content

Early Gothic Era  
The First Gothic Novel by Horace Walpole  
Historical Circumstances and the Gothic's relationship to the Victorian Novel  
Conventions of the Gothic Genre  
The Shining  
Stephen King and the 60s  
Historical circumstances and The Shining  
American ideology and society  
Beloved  
Slavery and America  
The Gothic and Race Theory  
Modernism

and its influence in the Gothic Narrative  
The Virgin Suicides  
Isolation and Depression  
The Gothic and the Psychology of Female Abjection  
Contemporary Feminism and Female Roles in the novel "Carmilla"  
and Contemporary Vampire Narratives  
Physical experience of horror  
Vampires and sexuality in the narrative  
Mysticism versus realism

## Method(s) of Instruction

- Lecture (02)
- DE Online Lecture (02X)

## Instructional Techniques

Instructor utilizes large-class lecture, small groups, or one-on-one tutoring. Instructor requires students to post to discussion forums through the course LMS, email, or submit compositions to external sites such as Turnitin. Instructor employs various audio and visual technology to appeal to different learning types. Instructor assigns reading and writing homework assignments.

## Reading Assignments

Students read from the assigned novels and novella. Students read course lessons posted on class website and follow links.

## Writing Assignments

Students write essays, reports, discussion posts, emails, journals, or do other activities.

## Out-of-class Assignments

Instructor requires students to read and write extensively outside class. Students may be assigned to attend a performance or watch a film.

## Demonstration of Critical Thinking

Students will demonstrate critical thinking during class discussion and in formal and informal writings.

## Required Writing, Problem Solving, Skills Demonstration

Group Project may be assigned. Creative demonstration of connection between contemporary and past literature through developing cause-and-effect explanations.

## Eligible Disciplines

English: Master's degree in English, literature, comparative literature, or composition OR bachelor's degree in any of the above AND master's degree in linguistics, TESL, speech, education with a specialization in reading, creative writing, or journalism OR the equivalent. Master's degree required.

## Textbooks Resources

1. Required Brock, M. *From Wollstonecraft to Stoker: Essays on Gothic and Victorian Sensation Fiction*, ed. McFarland Press, 2009 Rationale: As this course is devoted to literature, this book's edition and publication date, even if older, are acceptable. Legacy Textbook Transfer Data: Legacy text
2. Required Morrison, T. *Beloved*, ed. Vintage, 2004 Rationale: As this course is devoted to literature, this book's edition and publication date, even if older, are acceptable. Legacy Textbook Transfer Data: Legacy text
3. Required Eugenides, J. *The Virgin Suicides*, ed. Picador, 2018 Rationale: As this course is devoted to literature, this book's edition and publication date, even if older, are acceptable.
4. Required King, S. *The Shining*, ed. Mass Market Paperback, 2012 Rationale: This is the most recent edition and is in print. Legacy Textbook Transfer Data: Legacy text

## **Other Resources**

1. Coastline Library