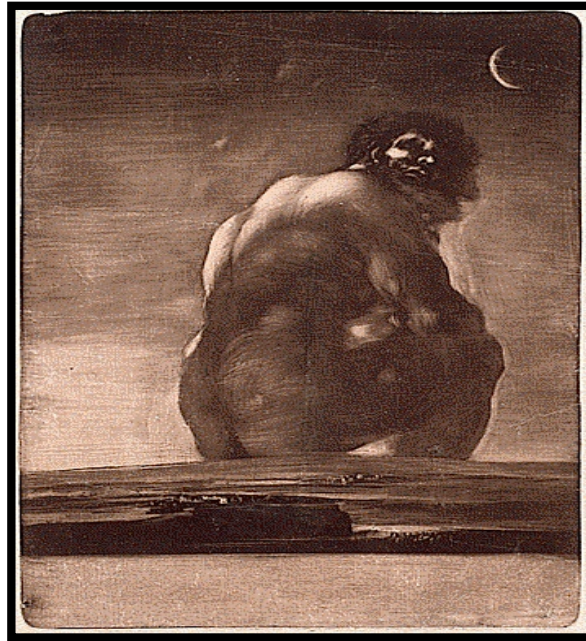


COMPARATIVE LITERATURE WINTER, 2009

COM 7 LITERATURE OF FANTASY AND THE SUPERNATURAL

PROF. NEIL LARSEN



The literature of fantasy and the supernatural, although often transporting the reader into a distant past, is a product of modern, urban society. In its Western variations, it dates from not much earlier than the 19th century. The urge for fantasy assumes the existence of a dominant literary realism, and a taste for the supernatural rests on the broad, secular disbelief in its existence. This course will explore this historical and cultural dynamic through a reading of works to include but not limited to the following: the short fiction of Edgar Allen Poe; Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland*; Henry James' classic ghost story, *The Turn of the Screw*; E.T.A. Hoffmann's "The Sand Man," read in conjunction with Freud's essay "On the Uncanny"; and the "fantastic" short fiction of Jorge Luis Borges. We will also explore these subgenres through film, viewing Jean Cocteau's *Beauty and the Beast* and a more contemporary Japanese horror movie. Requirements: Two four-five page papers; midterm and final exams; class attendance; and participation in discussion sections.

**Lecture: MWF, 1.10-2 PM CRN 27483 Questions, contact:
nalarsen@ucdavis.edu**