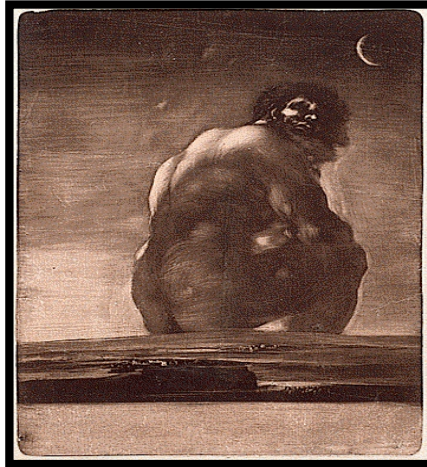


COMPARATIVE LITERATURE SPRING, 2012

COM 7 LITERATURE OF FANTASY AND THE SUPERNATURAL



Course description:

The literature of fantasy and the supernatural, although often transporting the reader into another world or 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 appeal of fantasy assumes the existence of a dominant literary realism, and the taste for the supernatural rests on the broad, secular disbelief in its existence. This course will explore this historical and cultural dynamic through a variety of literary texts and films, including works by: E.T.A. Hoffmann; Sigmund Freud; Edgar Allan Poe; Lewis Carroll; Henry James; Franz Kafka; and Jorge Luis Borges. Films to be viewed include F.W. Murnau's "Nosferatu"; Jean Cocteau's "Beauty and the Beast"; and Hideo Nakata's "Ringu." Comparative Literature 7 is an Introductory General Education course in Civilization and Culture.

Instructor:

Prof. Neil Larsen
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Office hours:

Tuesdays, Thursdays, 1.45-2.45 PM and by appointment; TA office hours to be announced.

Course procedures and requirements:

- Two four-five page papers on pre-assigned topics; midterm and final exams; class attendance; **and full participation in discussion sections**. Unannounced, very brief quizzes on assigned reading to be administered at the end of course lectures.
- No student who fails to complete the midterm, final exam, or to hand in both papers will receive a passing grade in the course. Students must attend discussion sections regularly and participate in discussions. Your grade will be determined according to the following percentages: first paper: 20%; first exam: 15 %; second paper: 20%; final exam: 20 %; participation (in discussion sections): 15%; reading quizzes: 10%. Late papers will be graded accordingly and no incompletes will be granted except for medical reasons or other unforeseeable emergencies.
- Lecture meets T, R in Storer 1322 , 4.40- 6.00 PM
- Discussion sections: see your own class schedules

Daily reading and activity schedule¹:

date	readings/film showings (for digital readings, see course website or electronic reserve library)	activities/deadlines
4/3	"Introduction," <i>Vikram and the Vampire</i> (Vetala Panchvimshati) traditional (Sanskrit original) from the 1870 translation by Sir Richard Burton (digital) pp.8-19 ; Samuel Coleridge, "Kubla Khan" (digital)	introductory lecture
4/5	Coleridge, cont.; E.T.A. Hoffmann, "The Sand Man" (digital)	
4/10	E.T.A. Hoffmann, "The Sand Man," cont.; S. Freud, "The Uncanny" (digital)	lecture
4/12	Hoffman & Freud, cont.; Edgar Allan Poe, "The Black Cat"; "The Tell-tale Heart," <i>The Selected Writings of Edgar Allan Poe</i> (bookstore)	lecture
4/17	Poe, "The Man of the Crowd"; "The Masque of the Red Death"	lecture
4/19	Poe, "The Facts in the Case of M. Valdemar"; "The Raven"	lecture
4/24	Poe, cont.; F.W. Murnau, "Nosferatu" (film)	lecture
4/26	Lewis Carroll, <i>Alice's Adventures in Wonderland</i> /bookstore; chapters I-VI	lecture
5/1	Carroll, cont., chapters VII-XII	lecture
5/3	_____	midterm review; first written assignment due

¹ Unless specific page numbers are listed, the day's reading assignment is to be read *in toto*.

5/8	————	midterm exam
5/10	Henry James, "The Turn of the Screw" in <i>The Turn of the Screw and other Short Fiction</i> /bookstore; chapters I-XI	
5/15	James, cont., chapters XII-XXIV	lecture
5/17	James, cont; J. Cocteau, "Beauty and the Beast" (film)	lecture
5/22	"Beauty and the Beast, " cont.; Kafka, "A Country Doctor";	lecture
5/24	Kafka, "The Hunter Gracchus"; "The Cares of a Family Man"	lecture
5/29	J.L. Borges, "Tlön, Uqbar, Orbis Tertius"; "The Garden of Forking Paths" from <i>Labyrinths</i> /bookstore	lecture
5/31	Borges, cont., "Funes the Memorious" Hideo Nakata, "Ringu" (film)	lecture; second written assignment due
6/5	Hideo Nakata, "Ringu," cont.	lecture; concluding remarks (final exam review in discussion sections)