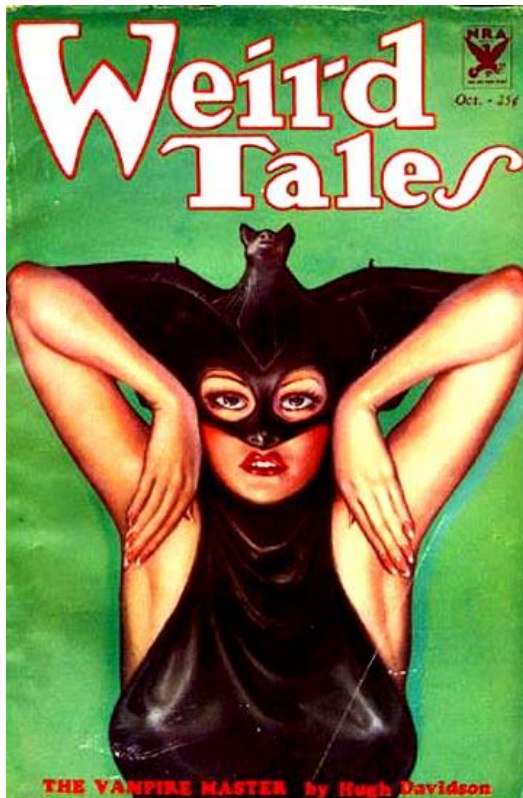


ENGL 445 Special Topic: American Gothic

Trimester 2 2015

13 July to 15 November 2015

30 Points



Cover of *Weird Tales* magazine, October 1933. Art by Margaret Brundage.

IMPORTANT DATES

Teaching dates:	13 July to 16 October 2015
Mid-trimester break:	24 August to 6 September 2015
Study period:	19 to 23 October 2015
Examination/Assessment period:	23 October to 14 November 2015

Note: Students who enrol in courses with examinations must be able to attend an examination at the University at any time during the scheduled examination period.

Withdrawal dates:

Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds. If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats.

CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Day	Time	Room
Mon	11.00am - 1.50pm	Von Zedlitz VZ808

NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS

Course coordinator: Timothy Jones

Email: Timothy.Jones@vuw.ac.nz

Phone: 463 5256

Room: vZ806

Office Hours: Email to make an appointment

COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional information will be communicated in class and via blackboard.

If you are not going to use the Victoria email address set up for you, we strongly encourage you to set a forward from the Victoria email system to the email address you do use.

PRESCRIPTION

An exploration of the American Gothic in its literary and popular forms, from the nineteenth century until the present, with attention to critical accounts of the genre and the relationships between genre, nation, history and readership.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES (CLOS)

Students who pass this course should be able to:

- 1 Demonstrate a substantial familiarity with texts considered on the course.
- 2 Identify and consider how issues of genre, nation, history and readership relate to American Gothic texts.
- 3 Describe established critical approaches to the genre, and illustrate how these interact with American Gothic texts.
- 4 Formulate and investigate their own research questions, referring to primary and secondary texts.
- 5 Articulate results of their research and reading, both orally and in written form, in a developed academic register.

TEACHING FORMAT

The course will be taught in seminar format. Formal lecturing will be minimal, and students are expected to attend every seminar and participate in them fully. Participating in a seminar includes a willingness to involve oneself in discussion, and fully preparing for that discussion by reading the assigned materials beforehand. Students will also be expected to present to the class as part of their assessment.

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

In addition to achieving an overall pass mark of 50%, students must:

- Submit all essays and assignments on or by the specified dates (subject to the stated provisions for the submission of late work).
- Sit the exam
- Attend at least 9 out of 12 seminars

Any student who is concerned that they have been (or might be) unable to meet any of these mandatory course requirements because of exceptional personal circumstances, should contact the course coordinator as soon as possible.

WORKLOAD

The expected workload for a 30-point course is 300 hours over the trimester or 20 hours per teaching week.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment items and workload per item	%	CLO(s)	Due date
1 Seminar and Paper – Students will present in-class on a self-discovered American Gothic text; assessment will relate to the presentation and the paper submitted alongside. Seminars will be 15-20 minutes in length, papers around 1500 words. Student presentations will be scheduled, beginning in week 4; the paper is due two days after the seminar presentation.	15	2, 3, 5	TBC, no later than 21 Sept
2 Reading reports – Students will engage with and assess TWO pieces of critical writing about the American Gothic. 600 words each.	5 each	2, 3, 5	3 Aug 5pm, 7 Sept, 5pm
3 Research Proposal and Annotated Bibliography – Students will submit a proposal for a research essay that addresses the set texts	5	1, 4, 5	14 Sept, 5pm

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	alongside critical issues, and accompany it with a bibliography. 500 words.			
4	Research Essay – investigates the questions identified in the research proposal, considering set texts within their critical frameworks. 4000 words	35	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	16 Oct
5	Exam – 2 hours (23 October to 14 November 2015)	35	1, 2, 3, 5	TBC

Please note: Marks for Honours level assignments and final course grades are not finalised until feedback from the external examiner has been considered. Honours grades gained in individual courses remain provisional until the overall final classification made by the Honours programme examination committee.

SUBMISSION AND RETURN OF WORK

Each assignment is submitted in two formats:

- A hardcopy in the drop slot outside the administration office: von Zedlitz Level 8. Attach an assignment cover sheet or extension form to your assignment, found on Blackboard or outside the administration office.
- Email your assignment as a MS Word file to english@vuw.ac.nz

Your marked assignment will be handed back by your supervisor. Any uncollected assignments can be picked up from the Programme Administrator after the last day of teaching. Assignments will be held in the administration office until the end of the following trimester. You need to show your student identification to collect marked assignment from the administration office.

Work provided for assessment in this course may be checked for academic integrity by Turnitin the online plagiarism prevention tool.

EXTENSIONS AND PENALTIES

Extensions

In exceptional and unforeseen circumstances an extension may be granted. To apply for an extension, email your Course Coordinator before the assignment is due. If granted, your Course Coordinator will inform you of the new due date. Tutors cannot grant extensions. **No assignment with or without an extension will be accepted after Monday 2 November 2015.**

Penalties

Work submitted after the deadline will be penalised by a 2.5 percent deduction from your total mark per work day. Late work also receives only minimal comments from your marker.

SET TEXTS

ENGL 445 Student Notes.

Poe, Edgar Allan. *The Fall of the House of Usher and other Writings*. Penguin.

Hawthorne, Nathaniel. *The House of the Seven Gables*. Oxford World's Classics.

Faulkner, William. *Absalom! Absalom!* Vintage Classics.

McCullers, Carson. *The Heart is a Lonely Hunter*. Penguin.

O'Connor, Flannery. *Wise Blood*. Faber.

Bradbury, Ray. *The October Country*. Ballantine.

King, Stephen. *Carrie*. Random House.

Morrison, Toni. *Beloved*. Vintage.

Gaiman, Neil. *The Doll's House*. DC Comics.

Brite, Poppy Z. *Wormwood*. Bantam Doubleday Dell.

You can order textbooks and student notes online at www.vicbooks.co.nz or can email an order or enquiry to enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz.

RECOMMENDED READING

Further readings and recommendations will be distributed via Blackboard.

CLASS REPRESENTATIVE

The class representative provides a useful way to communicate feedback to the teaching staff during the course. A class representative will be selected at the first lecture of the course. Students may like to write the Class Rep's name and details in this box:

Class Rep name and contact details:

STUDENT FEEDBACK

This is the first time this course has been offered. I look forward to your suggestions for future improvements.

Student feedback on University courses may be found at

www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php.

In week six or seven of the trimester your class representative will be invited to a meeting with the Programme staff. In week five your class representative will ask the class for any feedback on this course to discuss at this meeting.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism
- Aegrotats: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades
- Resolving academic issues: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Special passes: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute:
www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter
- Student Contract: www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian>
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure
- Victoria graduate profile: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz
- School website: www.victoria.ac.nz/seftms

School of English, Film, Theatre, & Media Studies
ENGLISH PROGRAMME COURSE OUTLINE [COURSE CODE]

COURSE PROGRAMME

Week 1 13 Jul What is the American Gothic?

Week 2 20 Jul Poe's Stories and Poems

Week 3 TBC *The House of the Seven Gables*

Week 4 3 Aug Short Fiction: Irving, Hawthorne, Gilman, Lovecraft

READING REPORT 1 DUE 3 AUG 5PM

Week 5 10 Aug *Absalom! Absalom!*

Week 6 17 Aug *The Heart is a Lonely Hunter*

Mid Trimester Break: Monday 24 August to Sunday 6 September 2015

Week 7 7 Sept *Wise Blood*

READING REPORT 2 DUE 7 SEPT 5PM

Week 8 14 Sept *The October Country*

RESEARCH PROPOSAL DUE 14 SEPT 5PM

Week 9 21 Sept *Carrie*

Week 10 28 Sept *Beloved*

Week 11 5 Oct *The Doll's House*

Week 12 12 Oct Brite's Stories

RESEARCH ESSAY DUE 16 OCT 5PM

Study Period: Monday 19 October to Friday 23 October 2015

Examination Period: Friday 23 October to Saturday 14 November 2015