

Liverpool John Moores University

Title: Vamps and Villains: Exploring Gothic Fiction
Status: Definitive
Code: **6502SRCHEL** (128181)
Version Start Date: 01-08-2021

Owning School/Faculty: Humanities and Social Science
Teaching School/Faculty: Southern Regional College

Team	Leader
Kathryn Walchester	Y

Academic Level: FHEQ6
Credit Value: 20
Total Delivered Hours: 35
Total Learning Hours: 200
Private Study: 165

Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Semester 2

Component	Contact Hours
Lecture	11
Seminar	22
Workshop	2

Grading Basis: 40 %

Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Presentation	AS1	10 minute presentation	10	
Essay	AS2	1500 words textual analysis essay	25	
Essay	AS3	3000 words researched essay	65	

Aims

- 1. To critically examine the enduring popularity of the genre of Gothic fiction as it has developed over two centuries.*
- 2. To explore the cultural, historical and intellectual contexts that shape the moment of its production*

3. To critique the genre from a variety of theoretical perspectives in order to build on the degree's foundations in the history of print cultures, critical theory and intertextuality

Learning Outcomes

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Critically review the development of Gothic fiction over two centuries
- 2 Critically evaluate the Gothic genre, integrating new concepts from literary theory, print culture and theories of intertextuality
- 3 Accept complete accountability for planning and delivering an in-class student led presentation

Learning Outcomes of Assessments

The assessment item list is assessed via the learning outcomes listed:

10 minute presentation	3	
1500 word textual analysis	2	
3000 words researched essay	1	2

Outline Syllabus

Gothic theory; psychoanalytic, queer, historicist and postcolonial readings of the genre; the gothic and sexuality; the gothic and science; vampires and the spectral; gothic and nationality. Authors including Edgar Allan Poe, Oscar Wilde, Bram Stoker, Shirley Jackson, Anne Rice, Susan Hill and Poppy Z Brite.

Learning Activities

Lectures, Seminars, Workshops, written work.

Notes

This module seeks to understand why and how the Gothic genre has been continuously remodeled by successive generations of writers who all lay claim to different kinds of audiences (highbrow, the popular and teenage). Moreover, the module explores how the Gothic appears to offer not only a highly sensationalized, if displaced, engagement with the socio-historical contexts of the day but also dramatizes the way that the historical past continues to shape the present. And in its exploration of the genre's deployment of supernatural figures such as the vampire, this module will examine the ways in which the Gothic looks to such imagined entities not only to dramatise societal fears about taboo subjects such as incest and rape but also allows for an encoded articulation, to varying degrees, of desires that

transgress the normative.