ENGLISH 2321: Intro to British Literature
Gothic Experiments
Spring 2021: In-Person MWF 10:00am-11:00am

Dr. Allison Dushane
adushane@angelo.edu
Office: Academic 019B

Office Hours
MWF 11:00-12:00 and Virtual Office Hours by Appointment

Course Description

What do we mean when we call something "monstrous?" Why are scientists so often depicted as "mad?"

In this course, we will explore stories about how the nonhuman—supernatural beings, nature, and technology—shapes our ideas of what it means to be human. These stories feature characters that make deals with the devil, conduct illicit experiments, and come to terms with their own "unnatural" origins. We will read literary texts alongside selected philosophical and scientific works in order to raise questions about how humanity defines itself in relation to the nonhuman: Are there limits to human knowledge of and power over nature? What is the nature of the relationship between creator and creation? What is the line between human and animal?

Our course texts will encompass a wide variety of genres, including a play, a short story, novels, poetry, and essays. Throughout the course, we will engage with these questions as we develop the tools to critically analyze literature and consider how literature works as a distinct form of knowledge.

Graded Course Work

Your final grade will be calculated by Blackboard according to the following weighting system:

30% Reading Responses
10% Quizzes
20% Exam #1
20% Exam #2
10% Course Reflection Essay
10% Preparation and Active Participation

Required Books and Technology

Books:
➢ All of the texts that you need to complete quizzes, weekly writing assignments, and exams will be provided in .pdf form on Blackboard or available online.
➢ If you prefer physical copies of texts, the books listed at the bookstore are optional for you to purchase.

Technology:
➢ See Course Policies I. Course Requirements and Expectations for more detailed technology requirements.
Learning Goals and ASU CORE Objectives

This class is not intended as an exhaustive account of British literature; rather, the goals of the class will be accomplished through a selection of literary texts that engage with a related set of ethical and philosophical questions.

Upon completing sophomore literature, students should be able to:

- understand the role of literature as an expression of values and interpretation of human experience
- understand and apply methods of responding to literature analytically
- understand the form, function, scope and variety of literature, including specialized terminology
- understand the interactive relationship between history, culture, and literature.

In short, this course seeks to help you:

- gain a broader understanding and appreciation of intellectual and cultural activity
- learn to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view
- develop your creative capacities

ASU Core Curriculum Objectives for Sophomore Literature

Students in sophomore literature will practice the following core curriculum learning objectives in critical thinking, communication, social responsibility, and personal responsibility. Students will then demonstrate their capabilities in these objectives through reading quizzes, written analyses, reflections, or examinations.

- **Critical thinking** will be demonstrated in reading quizzes, written analyses, and examinations. Students will gather, analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information relevant to a question or issue by mastering a series of assigned literary works in terms of generic conventions and content.
- **Communication** will be demonstrated in reading quizzes, written analyses, and examinations. Students will develop, interpret, and express ideas through effective written communication.
- **Social responsibility** will be demonstrated in students’ ability to engage with literary artists and the texts they create, and to reflect upon the shared traditions of literary expression, the debates that help shape literature, and the conflicts, cultural differences, and shared experiences.
- **Personal responsibility** will be demonstrated in reading quizzes, written analyses, and examinations. Students will demonstrate the ability to evaluate choices, actions, and consequences by identifying, analyzing, and evaluating ethical decision-making in literary examples.
I. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Method of Instruction

- **This class will meet in person.** If you are not able to regularly attend class in person you will not be able to complete this class and should see the EML Department Chair to request enrollment in a fully online section.
- Due dates for all assignments are listed on the weekly schedule on the syllabus and on Blackboard. You are responsible for planning your own schedule to meet assignment deadlines. Students should be proficient with Blackboard and must be able to access Blackboard on a regular basis. All assignments will be submitted through Blackboard.
- In the interest of fairness to all students, I will only make exceptions to the attendance and late work policies in the syllabus if you contact Students Affairs (studentaffairs@angelo.edu) for an official excuse. Student Affairs will inform all of your professors of your situation so that you can get the accommodations you need. **This includes any COVID-related issue (suspected contact/illness, quarantine, etc.)**
  - If you are catastrophically ill, experiencing significant challenges due to a chronic illness, or have some other kind of emergency that would normally prevent you from attending class for more than a week, you should contact Student Affairs and also let me know as soon as possible so I can work with you.

Technology Requirements and Policies

- All assignments will be submitted through Blackboard. You will need access to computer (not a phone) with reliable internet to access Blackboard, submit writing assignments, and take quizzes and exams.
- All files uploaded to Blackboard must be in Microsoft Word or .pdf format. Remember, ASU students have free access to Microsoft Office.
- The latest version of an internet browser is recommended. Firefox and Chrome work well with Blackboard, and others, such as Safari, work less well.
- Internet connectivity problems and other personal computer issues will not be accepted as excuses for missing classwork or failing to submit assignments before the deadline.

Technical Support

**The instructor is NOT qualified to provide technical support.**

- If you have technology issues and/or questions, contact ASU tech support.
  - E-mail: elearning@angelo.edu
  - Phone: 325-942-2911 (24/7 helpline)
- Blackboard also has a website with guides to frequently asked student questions:
  - [https://help.blackboard.com/Learn/Student](https://help.blackboard.com/Learn/Student)

Communication

- You must use your ASU e-mail for official course communication.
- I will communicate with you through e-mail, Blackboard Announcements, and feedback on your written assignments. I check e-mail from 9-5 Monday-Friday and very rarely on the weekends. I will typically respond to e-mail within 24 hours.
- The deadlines for the course are set so that you have the option of completing assignments in the evenings, but I only check e-mail during the regular business hours.
specified above. I am happy to help you, but if you leave an assignment until the last minute, you will not get a response from me on Wednesday at 8:00pm or Thursday at 11:00pm.

➤ Students should be mindful of professional etiquette when sending e-mail.
  o I am better able to help you if you include the course you are referencing in your e-mail, a clear and concise question, and some idea of the resources you have already consulted (syllabus, course materials, Blackboard help guide) to try and answer your question.
  o Remember to always include a professional greeting in e-mails to professors! Professor Dushane, Dr. Dushane, and Dr. D all work for me.

Office Hours

➤ In-person office hours are posted on the syllabus, but also available virtually by appointment. I am very happy to meet with you if you have questions or need help! Please e-mail me at least 24 hours in advance and give me your availability so that we can schedule a time.

II. ACADEMIC HONESTY: ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY

All ASU students are expected to understand and to comply with the University’s policies on Academic Honesty (link to Angelo State University's Honors Code and several links to resources on plagiarism and how to avoid it). Your enrollment this course assumes your agreement to this honor code, and your adherence to the policies contained in the Angelo State University Student Handbook: https://www.angelo.edu/current-students/student-handbook/

I have a zero tolerance policy for violations of the honor code, especially plagiarism. To be clear: submitting work that is not your own on ANY assignment, no matter how small, in addition to committing other acts of academic dishonesty as outlined in the code, is a violation punishable by your immediate failure for the course, not just the assignment.

III. STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

I am sympathetic to all disabilities and chronic illness, and request that all students requesting accommodation work through the student life office to make sure that they receive the attention they need.

➤ Please e-mail me early in the semester so we can discuss how I can make your accommodations work for this class! See “Other University Policies: Providing Accomodations for Students with Disabilities” below for more details.

➤ Students with disabilities that may warrant academic accommodations must contact the Student Life Office before the instructor can implement them. Room 112, Houston Harte University Center. E-mail: ADA@angelo.edu
IV. COUNSELING SERVICES

I encourage students struggling with events in their lives or ongoing mental health issues to seek out the allies and resources available to them on campus (links to campus offices included).

- Campus Counseling Services: 325-942-2171
- Campus Police: 325-942-2017
- Michelle Boone, Title IX Coordinator: 325-486-5367

V. ASSIGNMENTS: EXPECTATIONS and LATE POLICIES

Preparation and Active Participation /Attendance Policy

- At the end of the semester, I will assign an overall Preparation and Active Participation grade. Your grade in this category will depend on the following: coming to class on time and bringing the assigned text for the day, your willingness to participate in class discussion, and, most importantly, your overall level of engagement and attitude.
- I grant three absences to use in cases of illness, appointments, family issues, work conflicts, or circumstances that might prevent you from attending. You do not need to get my permission or give me proof of anything to use your absences. I do not distinguish between excused/unexcused absences (unless you have an exception from the Student Affairs office—see below). In the interest of fairness, each student is granted the same number of free absences, regardless of reason.
  - I allow three absences without question or penalty to your preparation and active participation grade.
  - Beginning with your fourth absence, your absences will affect your preparation and active participation grade.
  - After six absences, your total grade for preparation and active participation category will be a zero.
  - Nine or more absences is grounds for failure of the course.
- If you miss a class, you will need to determine what you missed during your absence by checking the Blackboard announcements, asking your classmates or by seeing me during office hours. I post any lecture slides that I use on Blackboard (though I don’t use slides during every class; many classes consist of discussion). Please do not e-mail me to ask: "what did I miss?" I am happy to answer clarifying questions, but it is your responsibility to check the schedule and stay on track!
- If you are experiencing major illness or another life event that will result in missing more than a couple of class meetings, please contact Students Affairs (studentaffairs@angelo.edu) so I can work with you on further accommodations. This includes any COVID-related issue (suspected contact/illness, quarantine, etc.)

Reading Responses

- Each week (with exceptions noted on the syllabus) students will submit a 250-500 word reading response based on a selection of assigned prompts.
- Reading responses must be posted to the Blackboard Discussion Board. Reading responses will not be accepted by e-mail.
No late responses will be accepted for any reason, but one reading response grade will be dropped before calculating the average for that category. Blackboard will automatically drop the lowest grade.

Quizzes

- Each week (with exceptions noted on the syllabus), students must complete quizzes that cover the reading for the week. There are 1-3 quizzes per week.
- All quizzes (with the exception of the Syllabus and Course Introduction quiz) are timed and can only be submitted once. They contain 5-10 questions and each takes 15 minutes or less.
- Be sure to read the overview for each week so that you can schedule enough time to do the reading and attend/view the relevant lectures before completing the quizzes.
- No late quizzes will be accepted for any reason, but three quiz grades will be dropped before calculating the average for that category. Blackboard will automatically drop the three lowest grades.

Exams

- Exam #1 and Exam #2 must be completed by the dates and times indicated in the syllabus.
- Exams consist of three parts: Parts #1 and #2 are timed and must be completed in one sitting. Part #3 may be uploaded at any time before the deadline. Exam scores will be released once all of the parts are graded.
- Exams are open book and open note.
- No late exams will be accepted except in cases of documented emergency (you will be required to contact Student Affairs for an official excuse; see “Attendance Policies.”

Course Reflection Essay

- The Course Reflection Essay will ask you to focus on the development of a central theme, issue, or question over time through a discussion of several course texts.
- The Course Reflection Essay must be submitted to the SafeAssign Dropbox in Blackboard as a Word document (.doc or .docx file) document or a PDF document (.pdf). Blackboard will not read other file types; if I can’t open/read your file for any reason, the assignment will be counted as a zero. Be sure to confirm that your file has been submitted. I will not accept submission by e-mail.
- The Course Reflection Essay is the only assignment that I will accept late, however, due to the time pressure I face to submit final grades on time, there is only a 24 hour late window. See the Course Reflection Essay assignment handout for more details.
OTHER UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Link to Angelo State University COVID-19 Policies and Updates

https://www.angelo.edu/covid-19/

From Operating Policy 10.5 (Providing Accommodations for Students with Disabilities):

ASU is committed to the principle that no qualified individual with a disability shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs or activities of the university, or be subjected to discrimination by the university, as provided by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments of 2008 (ADAAA) and subsequent legislation.

Student Disability Services is located in the Office of Student Affairs, and is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability. It is the student’s responsibility to initiate such a request by contacting an employee of the Office of Student Affairs, in the Houston Harte University Center, Room 112, or contacting the department via email at ADA@angelo.edu. For more information about the application process and requirements, visit the Student Disability Services website at www.angelo.edu/ADA

From Operating Policy 10.19 (Student Absence for Observance of Religious Holy Day):

A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. See ASU Operating Policy 10.19 Student Absence for Observance of Religious Holy Day for more information.

Incomplete Grade Policy

It is policy that incomplete grades be reserved for student illness or personal misfortune. Please contact faculty if you have serious illness or a personal misfortune that would keep you from completing course work. Documentation may be required. See ASU Operating Policy 10.11 Grading Procedures for more information.

Title IX at Angelo State University:

The University prohibits discrimination based on sex, which includes pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, and other types of Sexual Misconduct. Sexual Misconduct is a broad term encompassing all forms of gender-based harassment or discrimination including: sexual assault, sex-based discrimination, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, public indecency, interpersonal violence (domestic violence and/or dating violence), and stalking. As a faculty member, I am a Responsible Employee meaning that I am obligated by law and ASU policy to report any allegations I am notified of to the Office of Title IX Compliance.

Students are encouraged to report any incidents of sexual misconduct directly to ASU’s Office of Title IX Compliance and the Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator at:

Michelle Boone, J.D.
Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator
Mayer Administration Building, Room 210
325-942-2022 / michelle.boone@angelo.edu

You may also file a report online 24/7 at www.angelo.edu/incident-form.

If you are wishing to speak to someone about an incident in confidence you may contact the University Health Clinic and Counseling Center at 325-942-2173 or the ASU Crisis Helpline at 325-486-6345.

For more information about Title IX in general you may visit www.angelo.edu/title-ix.
WEEKLY SCHEDULE

*The weekly MWF breakdown of readings/lectures/discussions for each class meeting will be posted each week on Blackboard announcements.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week # and Dates</th>
<th>Readings (R), Videos (V), and Handouts (H)</th>
<th>Assignments Due</th>
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</table>
| **Week One:**      | **Course Introduction**  
1.18 (ASU classes begin)-1.22  
H: Syllabus  
L: Course Orientation  
H: Exam #1 Glossary and Guide  
R: Creation Stories and the Allegory of the Cave  
L: Creation Stories and the Allegory of the Cave  
H: Reading Response Assignment  | **Due Thursday @ 11:59pm**  
☐ Quiz: Syllabus and Course Orientation  
☐ RR #1 |
| **Week Two:**      | **Doctor Faustus**  
1.24-1.28  
R: *Doctor Faustus*: Prologue (lines 1-28) and *English Faust Book* selections (*EFB*) (pp. 238-239)  
L: Literary Analysis: Authors, Texts and Contexts  
R: *Doctor Faustus*: Scenes 1-6 and *EFB* selections (pp. 239-245)  
L: The Faustian Bargain, Part I Lecture  | **Due Thursday @ 11:59pm**  
☐ Quiz: Reading: *Doctor Faustus*: Acts I and II  
☐ RR #2 |
| **Week Three:**    | **Doctor Faustus**  
1.31-2.4  
R: *Doctor Faustus*: Scenes 7-13 + Epilogue  
R: *Doctor Faustus*: *EFB* selections (pp. 258-264)  
L: The Faustian Bargain, Part II Lecture  | **Due Thursday @ 11:59pm**  
☐ Quiz: *Doctor Faustus*: Acts III-V Reading  
☐ RR #3 |
| **Week Four:**     | **Frankenstein**  
2.7-2.11  
R: *Frankenstein*: Title Page, Dedication, Preface, Letters I-IV  
L: *Frankenstein*: Genres and Contexts  
R: *Frankenstein*: Volume I  
L: *Frankenstein* Volume I Lecture  
R: *Frankenstein*, Appendix B: Darwin and Davy (239-249)  | **Due Thursday @ 11:59pm**  
☐ Quiz: *Frankenstein*: Volume I Reading  
☐ RR #4 |
| Week Five | Frankenstein 2.14-2.18 | **R:** *Frankenstein*, Volume II  
**L:** *Frankenstein* Volume II Lecture  
**R:** *Frankenstein*, Appendix A: Wollstonecraft (pp. 231-238) | **Due Thursday @ 11:59pm**  
☐ Quiz: *Frankenstein* Volume II Reading  
☐ RR #5 |
| Week Six | Frankenstein 2.21-2.25 | **R:** *Frankenstein*, Volume III  
**L:** *Frankenstein* Volume III Lecture  
**R:** *Frankenstein*, Appendix A: Godwin (pp. 223-230) | **Due Thursday @ 11:59pm**  
☐ Quiz: *Frankenstein* Volume III Reading  
☐ RR #6 |
| Week Seven | Exam #1 2.28-3.4 | **H:** Exam #1 Glossary and Guide | **Due Friday @ 11:59pm**  
☐ Exam #1, Part I: Matching and Term Identification  
☐ Exam #1, Part II: Multiple Choice  
☐ Exam #1, Part III: Essay |
| Week Eight | **Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde** 3.7-3.11  
(ASU Spring Break 3.14-3.18) | **R:** *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*: the whole novella!  
**L:** Victorian Dualities | **Due Thursday @ 11:59pm**  
☐ Quiz: *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* Reading  
☐ RR #7 |
| Week Nine | **Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde** 3.21-3.25 | **R:** *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* Appendix K: Victorian Psychology (Maudsley, Myers, and Sully, pp. 190-203)  
**L:** Victorian Psychology  
**R:** Darwin and Huxley Selections  
**L:** Evolution and Culture | **Due Thursday @ 11:59pm**  
☐ Quiz: Victorian Psychology  
☐ Quiz: Evolution and Culture  
☐ RR #8 |
| Week Ten | Victorian Poetry 3.28-4.1 | **R:** Browning, "Porphyria's Lover" and "My Last Duchess"  
**L:** The Dramatic Monologue Readings  
**R:** The Woman Question Readings  
**L:** *The Woman Question* | **Due Thursday @ 11:59pm**  
☐ Quiz: The Dramatic Monologue  
☐ Quiz: The Woman Question  
☐ RR #9 |
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<tr>
<th>Week Eleven</th>
<th>R: Rossetti, “Goblin Market”</th>
<th>Due Thursday @ 11:59pm</th>
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<tr>
<td>4.4-4.8</td>
<td>L: Reading Allegory</td>
<td>□ Quiz: Reading Allegory</td>
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<tr>
<td>Victorian Poetry</td>
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<td>□ RR #10</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week Twelve</th>
<th>H: Exam #2 Glossary and Study Guide</th>
<th>Due Friday @ 11:59pm</th>
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<tr>
<td>4.11-4.15</td>
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<td>□ Exam #2, Part I: Matching and Term Identification</td>
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<td>EXAM #2</td>
<td></td>
<td>□ Exam #2, Part II: Multiple Choice</td>
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<td>□ Exam #2, Part III: Essay</td>
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<th>Week Thirteen</th>
<th>R: &quot;The Machine Stops&quot;</th>
<th>Due Thursday @ 11:59pm</th>
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<tr>
<td>4.18-4.22</td>
<td>L: Victorian Science Fiction</td>
<td>□ Quiz: “The Machine Stops” Reading</td>
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<tr>
<td>Imagining Machines</td>
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<td>□ RR #11</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week Fourteen</th>
<th>R: &quot;The Uncanny&quot; + Reading Guide</th>
<th>Due Thursday @ 11:59pm</th>
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<tr>
<td>4.25-4.29</td>
<td>L: The Uncanny and Gothic Experiments</td>
<td>□ Quiz: The Uncanny and Gothic Experiments</td>
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<td>Imagining Machines</td>
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<td>□ RR #12</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week Fifteen</th>
<th>H: Course Reflection Essay Assignment and Grading Rubric</th>
<th>Due Thursday @ 11:59pm</th>
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<tr>
<td>5.2-5.7</td>
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<td>□ Quiz: Course Reflection Essay Assignment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Why Study English?</td>
<td></td>
<td>*No RR Due Friday: Work on Course Reflection Essay</td>
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| Week Sixteen/ Final Exam | Course Reflection Essay Due: Monday, May 9th @ 11:59pm |