

ENLT 2555.02 Fall 2018

**Gothic Forms**  
**Cynthia Wall**

wall@virginia.edu  
MW 2:00-3:15, Bryan 334  
Office Hours T 10:30-1:30  
Dawson's Row 105

Gothic literature burst onto the scene in the eighteenth century with ruined castles, ethereal music, brooding villains and fainting heroines, all performing as metaphors of our deepest fears. Throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries the gothic continued as a genre of cultural anxiety. This seminar will survey gothic literature through both history and genre: from the classic novels, such as Horace Walpole's *The Castle of Otranto* (1764), Matthew Lewis's *The Monk* (1797), Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* (1818), Jane Austen's *Northanger Abbey* (1818) and Shirley Jackson's *The Haunting of Hill House* (1959); through the poetry of John Keats, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Christina Rossetti; the plays of Matthew Lewis and Richard Brinsley Peake; and the short stories of Edgar Allan Poe, Charlotte Perkins Gilman, W. W. Jacobs, Richard Matheson, and Stephen King. And we will ask ourselves: *What are we afraid of?* Active participation, weekly short commentaries, writing workshops, three short papers (5-7pp), and a final exercise.

Aug 29: Introduction: Metaphors of Fear, Genres of Anxiety

**Eighteenth Century**

Sep 3: **Novel** Horace Walpole, *The Castle of Otranto* (1764), Chs. 1-3

Sep 5: *The Castle of Otranto*, Chs. 4-5

Sept 10: **Novel** Matthew Lewis, *The Monk* (1797), Vol. I

Sept 12: *The Monk*, Vol. II

Sept 17: *The Monk*, Vol. III

Sept 19: **Poetry** Heinrich August Ossenfelder, "The Vampire" (1748); Gottfried August Bürger, "Lenore" (1773); Samuel Taylor Coleridge, "Christabel" (1797)

Sept 24: **Drama** Matthew Lewis, *Castle Spectre* (1797), Acts I-III

Sept 26: *Castle Spectre*, Acts IV-V; *The Captive* (1803)

Oct 1: **Special Collections**

Oct 3: First draft due; **in-class workshops**



## Nineteenth Century

- Oct 8: **READING DAY**
- Oct 10: **Novel** Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein* (1818), Vol. I; **FIRST PAPER DUE**
- Oct 15: *Frankenstein*, Vol. II
- Oct 17: *Frankenstein*, Vol. III
- Oct 22: **Drama** R. B. Peake, *Presumption; or, The Fate of Frankenstein* (1823)
- Oct 24: **Poetry** John Keats, “La Belle Dame sans Merci” (1819); Samuel Taylor Coleridge, “The Rime of the Ancient Mariner” (1798)
- Oct 29: Edgar Allan Poe, “The Raven” (1845); Christina Rossetti, “Goblin Market” (1862)
- Oct 31: **Short Stories** Edgar Allan Poe, “The Tell-Tale Heart” (1843); “The Mask of the Red Death” (1845)
- Nov 5: Charlotte Perkins Gilman, “The Yellow Wallpaper” (1892)
- Nov 7: **First-draft workshops**
- Nov 9: **SECOND PAPER DUE**

## Twentieth Century

- Nov 12: **Novel** Shirley Jackson, *The Haunting of Hill House* (1959)
- Nov 14: *The Haunting of Hill House*
- Nov 19: **Drama** Shirley Jackson and Leslie F. Andrew, *The Haunting of Hill House: A Drama of Suspense in Three Acts* (1998)
- Nov 21: **THANKSGIVING**
- Nov 26: **Short Stories** W. W. Jacobs, “The Monkey’s Paw” (1902); Jerome Bixby, “It’s a Good Life” (1953)
- Nov 28: Stephen King, “Here There Be Tygers” (1968); Richard Matheson, “Duel” (1971)
- Nov 30: **THIRD PAPER DUE**
- Dec 3: **The Perfect Conclusion** Jane Austen, *Northanger Abbey* (1818), Vol. I
- Dec 5: *Northanger Abbey*, Vol. II; **TAKE-HOME EXAM DUE**

Henry Fuseli, “The Nightmare” (1781)

