

IAH 207: Literatures, Cultures, & Identities:  
**The Gothic** in Modern Literature, Film, Media, & Art  
Jessica Travers | Spring 2015 | Course Location: Natural Sciences Building, Room 145

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**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Email: [traver11@msu.edu](mailto:traver11@msu.edu)  
Website: D2L

**OFFICE HOURS**

Mon. 12-2 & by appt.  
Office Location: Wells Hall, C746

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**DISCUSSION SESSION DESCRIPTION**

This is the community and discussion driven section of IAH 207, thus students are expected to come to class ready and prepared to discuss and participate. Bring your insights and reflections from lecture and readings. This hour gives us the opportunity to discuss, ground, and breakdown the concepts found in the readings and covered during lecture; in other words, this is a venue for you to share your ideas and questions.

**TEXTS:**

Books (to purchase):

Horace Walpole, *The Castle of Otranto* (Oxford)  
Charles Brockden Brown, *Edgar Huntly* (Penguin)  
Robert Louis Stevenson, *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* (Signet)  
Bram Stoker, *Dracula* (Dover)  
Alison Bechdel, *Fun Home* (Mariner Books)  
Toni Morrison, *Beloved* (Vintage)  
Chris Baldick, ed., *The Oxford Book of Gothic Tales* (Oxford) (OBGT)

On a tight budget? You might consider buying used copies of these books via [abe.com](http://abe.com) or Amazon; or purchasing books directly from Amazon Prime or other online retailers; or reading **unabridged** versions of the novels by Walpole, Brown, Stevenson, and Stoker online. The specific editions listed above are recommended for purchase because they are unabridged and, often, they contain helpful notes. Please patronize the local student bookstores if at all possible!

We will be reading 16 stories from *The Oxford Book of Gothic Tales*. Students who love to read and/or who love the gothic should feel free to read the other stories. Prof Arch would be happy to talk about them during his office hours!

Films (screened in class):

*Rebecca* (1940), dir. Alfred Hitchcock  
*Alien* (1979), dir. Ridley Scott

Additional readings (on d2l):

Sigmund Freud, excerpt from *The Uncanny*  
Edmund Burke, excerpt from *Philosophical Inquiry Into the Origin of our Ideas of the Sublime and the Beautiful* (1757)  
Immanuel Kant, excerpt from *Observations on the Feeling of the Beautiful and the Sublime* (1764)  
Victor Hugo, excerpt from the preface to *Cromwell* (1828)

## GRADING

1 Written Essay (5-6 page paper): 20 %

4 Reading Exams (machine graded, multiple choice): 10 % each or 40 % total percent

Participation & Attendance (in discussion section, more than 4 absences = automatic fail): 20 %

Final exam: 20 %

## DEADLINE & LATE WORK POLICY

Students are expected to arrive on time and with completed assignments in hand. Late work is not accepted unless prior arrangements are made (on case by case basis, “clock stops ticking” once work is emailed to me as attachment).

## ATTENDANCE, PROMPTNESS, PARTICIPATION, AND PREPAREDNESS

Due to the participatory nature of this section, students must participate during discussions and remain focused and on task for the entire class session. Students are expected to complete readings and work before coming to class; to bring the appropriate course materials to class; and to contribute to class discussions, group work, and activities. Coming to class unprepared or unwilling to participate seriously undermines student success and cheats colleagues, so repeated under-preparedness will result in course grade reduction. **Attendance** will be recorded at each discussion section. *Students must attend at least 10 (out of 14) discussions sections to PASS the course.* Section instructors will not record or discuss excuses for absences; use your four permitted absences wisely. Please note that attendance is not the same thing as participation.

**Participation** will be assessed by the instructor of each discussion section; it will include a self-assessment by each student of her or his performance. “Participation” includes contributions to discussion, in-class writing, intelligent questions, alertness, note taking, visits during office hours, and efficient and clear email exchanges with your section instructor. If you are a quiet person, figure out a way to demonstrate to your section instructor that you ARE engaged! Also, it is your responsibility to keep track of your grades throughout the term; please don’t hesitate to bring me questions regarding your grade, but don’t wait until the end of the term.

## CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR

In order to create a positive and productive working environment, disruptive and disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated—including **texting during class and other disruptions from cell phones and laptops**. Students are expected to behave professionally: to arrive on time; to be sober, rested, and ready to work; and to come prepared with assignments read/printed (and stapled)/posted/completed. Students’ actions and words should demonstrate respect for the instructor and for their classmates. Anyone who disrupts the learning environment by acting inappropriately or unethically may be asked to leave. Feel free to interrupt me at any time during our discussions or lectures with comments or questions. Also, I expect that we will **treat each other with respect**, we will not denigrate or dismiss the opinions of others (although, respectfully disagreeing is okay, even encouraged), and remember that what is said in the classroom stays in the classroom.

## ACADEMIC FRAUD

All essays will be scanned for plagiarism using Turnitin (via D2L). Plagiarism and cheating are **serious offenses**. Forms of academic dishonesty, including using portions or copies of another person’s work or recycled work from past courses, will not be tolerated. Any intellectual property (ideas, quotes, graphics, etc.) “borrowed” from outside sources must be **properly cited** – this includes both direct quotes and paraphrases.