

**AML 2070-3651**  
**Survey of American Literature**  
MWF 3:00-3:50 MAT 0102

Instructor: Mrs. Melissa Loucks  
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Office: Turlington 4367  
Hours: Mon. 4:00-5:00  
(or by appointment)

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The purpose of this course is to introduce you to some of the major writers, issues, and forms encountered in the history of American literature. The course centers around what we will call "horror literature," but that term will be loosely interpreted to include works that deal with fear and terror in a number of ways. Readings span a broad period of time, from the eighteenth century to the present. Although the majority of texts used in this class will be canonical, we will also work with literature that is often ignored or elided by the academy.

This course places significant emphasis on analysis, research, synthesis, and rhetorical approach. You will be expected to conduct close readings of each text, maintain a reading response journal, lead class discussions, and compose two short papers and one longer, final paper. You will also be expected to submit multiple drafts of each paper and participate in conferencing and peer review exercises.

This course can satisfy the UF General Education requirement for Composition or Humanities. For more information, see <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/advising/info/general-educationrequirement.aspx>.

This course can provide 6000 words toward fulfillment of the UF requirement for writing. For more information, see <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/advising/info/gordon.aspx>.

This is a General Education course providing student learning outcomes listed in the Undergraduate Catalog. For more information, see <http://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/advising/info/general-educationrequirement.aspx#learning>.

**Required Texts**

- Brockden Brown, Charles. *Wieland; or Hie Transformation*
- Brooks, Max. *World War Z*
- Forster, Mark, dir. *World War Z*
- Gaiman, Neil. *Coraline*
- Hawthorne, Nathaniel. "Young Goodman Brown"
- Irving, Washington. "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow"
- James, Henry. "The Turn of the Screw"
- King, Stephen. *The Mis!*
- Lovecraft, H.P. "The Call of Cthulhu"
- Matheson, Richard. *I Am Legend*
- Palalumiuk, Chuck. *Haunted: A Novel*
- Poe, Edgar Allen. "The Fall of the House of Usher" and "The Tell-Tale Heart"
- Wood, Wallace and David J. Spurlock. *Eerie Tales of Crime and Horror*

• Additional texts will be provided as handouts or delivered electronically.

\*\* Students are highly encouraged to obtain texts via the least expensive method, regardless of edition, but students who choose to use electronic versions of texts are **still required** to bring them to class.

## ASSIGNMENTS

### August 21

In class: Introductions, discuss syllabus, course readiness, expectations

HW: Read Brown, part 1; journal response

### August 23

In class: Discuss Brown

HW: Read Brown, part 2; journal response

### August 26

In class: Discuss Brown

HW: Brown, part 3; journal response

### August 28

In class: Discuss Brown

HW: Irving, journal response

### August 30

In class: Discuss Irving

HW: Hawthorne; journal response

### September 2

No class - Labor Day

### September 4

In class: Discuss Hawthorne

HW: Poe ("Usher"); journal response

### September 6

In class: Discuss "Usher"

HW: Poe ("Heart"); journal response

### September 9

In class: Discuss "Heart"

HW: James, part 1; journal response

### September 11

In class: Discuss James

HW: James, part 2, journal response

### September 13

In class: Discuss James

HW: Lovecraft; journal response

### September 16

In class: Discuss Lovecraft, discuss paper proposals

HW: Proposal

### September 18

In class: Group work - share proposals, discuss paper direction based on model (handout)

HW: Draft revised proposal

### September 20

Due: Proposal

In class: Discuss research methods, research exercise

HW: Begin drafting paper

### September 23

In class: Discuss synthesis, synthesis exercise

HW: Continue drafting

### September 25

In class: Discuss structure, format, citation

HW: Finish first draft

### September 27

In class: Peer review

HW: Revise paper

### September 30

Due: Short Paper #1 and journal

In class: Film: "Urban Legends"

HW: Wood; journal entry

### October 2

In class: Discuss Wood

HW: Matheson, part 1; journal entry

### October 4

In class: Discuss Matheson

HW: Matheson, part 2; journal entry

### October 7

In class: Discuss Matheson

HW: Matheson, part 3; journal entry

### October 9

In class: Discuss Matheson

HW: Matheson, part 4; journal entry

### October 11

In class: Discuss Matheson

HW: King, part 1; journal entry

**October 14**

In class: Discuss King

HW: King, part 2; journal entry

**October 16**

In class: Discuss King

HW: King, part 2; journal entry

**October 18**

In class: Discuss King

HW: King, part 3; journal entry

**October 21**

In class: Discuss King

HW: Gaiman, part 1; journal entry; begin drafting

**October 23**

In class: Discuss Gaiman

HW: Gaiman, part 2; journal entry; continue drafting

**October 25**

In class: Discuss Gaiman

HW: Finish first draft

**October 28**

In class: Peer review

HW: Revise paper

**October 30**

Due: Short Paper #2 and journal

In class: Film: "Treehouse of Horror"

HW: Palahniuk, part 1; journal entry

**November 1**

In class: Discuss Palahniuk

HW: Palahniuk, part 2; journal entry

**November 4**

In class: Discuss Palahniuk

HW: Palahniuk, part 3; journal entry

**November 7**

In class: Discuss Palahniuk

HW: Palahniuk, part 4; journal entry

**November 8**

No class - Homecoming

**November 11**

No class - Veterans Day

**November 13**

In class: Discuss Palahniuk

HW: Brooks, part 1; journal response

**November 15**

In class: Discuss Brooks

HW: Brooks, part 2; journal response

**November 18**

In class: Discuss Brooks

HW: Brooks, part 3; journal response

**November 20**

In class: Discuss Brooks

HW: Brooks, part 4; journal response

**November 22**

In class: Discuss Brooks

**November 25**

In class: Discuss final paper (mini-lecture & discussion)

HW: Film: *World War Z*; journal entry; begin drafting

**November 27-29**

No class - Thanksgiving Break

**December 2**

In class: Discuss *World War Z*

HW: Continue drafting

**December 4**

In class: Instructions for remote peer review; course wrap-up

HW: Finish drafting, remote peer review

**December 13**

Due: Final paper (11:59pm)

## ASSIGNMENT DETAILS

### Participation

You are expected to be an active participant in our class discussions. This means contributing to conversations in meaningful ways, voicing thoughtful opinions, asking relevant questions, offering insights, and listening to others respectfully.

### Journal

Each class session will require a significant amount of reading and a short response to that reading. Your journal will be a place to pose or respond to questions provoked by our texts. I will also offer questions to be considered in your responses. The journal entries should vary from personal reflections to (minor) philosophical deliberations. These responses are to be carefully-crafted, succinct, well-written approaches to what you have read. In many ways, your task is to prove yourself a careful reader of the text and an engaged participant in the direction our course takes. During each class session, I will select a few students to share their responses in order to spark discussion and debate. Additionally, journals will be submitted for evaluation on the date of each paper deadline.

### Papers

You will compose three essays over the course of the semester. Specific guidelines for these essays will be provided early in each unit, but the papers will largely parse a particular thread or theme from one or more of the texts we read. These assignments will be open to some interpretation, and you are encouraged to investigate the elements of our readings that you find most stirring or inspiring.

## GRADING RUBRIC

Evaluation of written work will focus primarily on organization, thoughtfulness, and clarity. Specifically, I will grade based on the following: a clear and focused thesis/main argument; a well supported and logical argument; a clear expression of ideas; an engagement with the course texts and themes; and a respectful engagement with oppositional arguments.

**An “A” paper** states the author’s topic clearly and demonstrates a thorough familiarity with the sources. The topic must be an arguable one. The paper is a thoughtful, careful overview of the topic. An “A” paper elaborates on a range of scholarship with relevant examples. The paper is well organized and each paragraph has a clear topic sentence. The sentence structure is direct, active, and concise, with appropriate word choice. The tone and diction are formal. The paper uses effective transitions and contains few—if any—grammar or punctuation errors; the piece will have no obvious proofreading errors. The writer uses correct MLA formatting and an appropriate works cited page.

**A “B” paper** may not clearly state the research issues specifically in the introduction. However, the writer demonstrates a command of the sources and has a debatable topic. The writer has relevant, recent, and scholarly sources, if applicable. The works cited may be incorrect in places, but is correctly executed otherwise. The paper has a few passive, wordy sentences and some minor grammatical errors but overall demonstrates mechanical competence. The overall argument is supported and apparent, if not clearly communicated.

**A “C” paper** contains an organizing statement that needs clarification and more development. The writer may not adequately engage evidence from the source text and/or research. The tone and diction may be informal at times. The paper lacks effective transitions and consistently strong topic sentences. It has some grammatical and mechanical errors such as fragments and comma splices as well as some passive, wordy sentence structure.

A **“D” paper** does not have an arguable topic. The writer does not use significant or scholarly sources and fails to show a mastery of the sources. A “D” paper has little textual evidence. It may contain many and distracting grammar and punctuation errors. A “D” paper has style problems: repetitive, passive, and choppy sentence structure, informal language, and poor phrasing. It will give the impression of having been written quickly with little revision or proofreading.

An **“F” paper** does not meet the minimum assignment criteria. It may be off-topic, incomplete, or nonsensical, or it may contain significant ethical problems such as instances of plagiarism or an obviously apathetic approach.

In addition to these general standards, particular attention will be given to:

Organization

- Creative and clear thesis that posits a theory (not a fact) about the text
- Itinerary statement (how you will prove your claim/thesis)
- Topic sentences for paragraphs
- Introductory and concluding paragraphs that do not consist of redundant thoughts

Clarity

- Attention to language (use formal language choices and no “slang”)
- Limited number of errors relating to grammar and punctuation
- Clear syntax (sentences structure) and lack of passive voice

**POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS**

**Grading**

Your final grade will be weighted as follows:

- |  |     |
|--|-----|
| • Class participation                                | 10% |
| • Reading response journal (100-250 words per entry) | 15% |
| • Short paper #1 (1500 words)                        | 20% |
| • Short paper #2 (1500 words)                        | 20% |
| • Final paper (3000 words)                           | 35% |

Grading Scale:

A 95-100	A- 90-94	B+ 87-89
B 84-86	B- 80-83	C+ 77-79
C 74-76	C- 70-73	D+ 67-69
D 64-66	D- 60-63	F 0-59

**Final Grade Appeals**

Students may appeal a grade by filling out a form available from Carla Blount, English Department Program Assistant.

### **Absences/Tardiness**

Active participation is crucial to learning in this course. You are expected to be in class and on time. Excessive absences will result in grade penalties as follows:

4 <sup>th</sup> Absence	Loss of one letter grade for the course
7 <sup>th</sup> Absence	Loss of two letter grades for the course
10 <sup>th</sup> Absence	Failure of course

3 Tardies = 1 Absence

Students who participate in athletics, band, or theater will be excused for university-sponsored travel and events. However, you are responsible for making up any work you miss for participation in these events. Failure to consult me about an absence and/or how to make up work will be reported to the appropriate sponsoring department.

### **Retention of Graded Assignments**

I will keep electronic copies of all papers and journals.

### **Late Work**

All papers must be submitted electronically *prior to the beginning of class* on their respective due dates. Any paper not submitted on time will be penalized one letter grade. An additional loss of one letter grade will result from each subsequent day the paper is late.

Should you have an extenuating circumstance that prevents you from submitting a paper on the day it is due, please contact me in advance or within 24 hours of the scheduled class meeting. Documentation will be required.

### **Special Note Regarding Electronic Submissions**

Papers must be submitted in Microsoft Word format. Any file that cannot be opened due to corruption or improper extension will be considered late. *Check your files before submitting them!*

### **Student Disability Services**

The Disability Resource Center in the Dean of Students Office provides information and support regarding accommodations for students with disabilities. For more information, see: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>

### **Harassment**

UF provides an educational and working environment that is free from sex discrimination and sexual harassment for its students, staff, and faculty. For more about UF policies regarding harassment, see: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/sexual/>

### **Academic Honesty**

All students must abide by the Student Honor Code. For more information about academic honesty, including definitions of plagiarism and unauthorized collaboration, see: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/lionorcodes/lionorcode.php>

## **IMPORTANT DATES**

### **Withdrawal**

The last day to drop a class with a full refund is August 27. The last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of W is November 25.

### **Holidays**

September 2: Labor Day

November 8-9: Homecoming  
November 11: Veterans Day  
November 27-30: Thanksgiving Break

### **CHANGES TO SYLLABUS**

This document is intended to provide you with guidance for success in the course. It is subject to change according to the class's needs. You will be notified of any changes in a timely manner, and you are responsible for the information in the most recent version.