

Minnesota State University Moorhead

ENGL 346: Virtue and Vice in Gothic Storytelling

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours/Week: 3

Lab Hours/Week: 0

OJT Hours/Week: *.*

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: Goal 09 - Ethical/Civic Resp

A consideration of the ethical implications of the literary constructions of Gothic storytelling and the larger social context that surround it and its place in popular culture. Students will analyze Gothic tales in order to extract their ethical underpinnings. Students will also use their readings to better understand larger ethical belief systems and their place within those. MnTC Goal 9.

B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 09/26/2011 - Present

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. An exploration of the ethical messages communicated through Gothic tales that show characters leaving the safety and security of their homes and communities to explore the unknown or forbidden
2. An exploration of the ethical messages communicated through Gothic tales that show characters in the safety of their homes and communities falling victim to invasive, malevolent forces.
3. An exploration of the ethical propriety of producing and distributing violent horror, both in fiction and in film; an exploration also of our ethical and civic responsibilities regarding this production and distribution.

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. To provide an opportunity for students to more clearly understand and articulate their own ethical principles by comprehending and responding to moral messages communicated through Gothic storytelling.
2. To provide an opportunity for students to consider personal, familial, and civic responsibilities by responding to ethical issues addressed in Gothic storytelling.
3. To provide an opportunity for students to develop an awareness of the history, conventions, themes, and ethics of Gothic fiction.
4. To provide an opportunity for students to continue to hone writing skills, such as the ability to clearly articulate ideas, to analyze concepts, to synthesize a variety of different sources/points of view into one paper, and to enhance students' use of grammar, mechanics, and appropriate/ethical use of sources.
5. To provide an opportunity for students to more clearly understand how Gothic/Horror relates to the society we live in and the ethical challenges that the very existence of such violent works presents.

E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies

Goal 09 - Ethical/Civic Resp

1. Examine, articulate, and apply their own ethical views.
2. Understand and apply core concepts (e.g. politics, rights and obligations, justice, liberty) to specific issues.
3. Analyze and reflect on the ethical dimensions of legal, social, and scientific issues.
4. Recognize the diversity of political motivations and interests of others.
5. Identify ways to exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

As noted on course syllabus

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION

None noted