

## Summer 2021

<b>AP/EN 4573 3.0A (S1)</b>	Victorian Ghosts
<b>Course Director:</b>	Professor Marilou McKenna mckenna@yorku.ca email inquiries answered within 24 hrs during the week telephone appointments can be arranged with the instructor
<b>Time:</b>	(Monday/Friday 18:00-21:00) *asynchronous delivery
<b>Delivery Format:</b>	<b>ONLINE</b> – (asynchronous delivery) – There is no set course meeting time. Students may engage with course content/materials 24/7.
<b>Description:</b>	<p>The Victorian period (roughly based on the reign of Queen Victoria from 1837 until her death in 1901) is such a fascinating area of study from the perspective of the twenty-first century. The Victorians experienced much of what we in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries have experienced—social, technological, and spiritual upheaval. Theirs is a complex society and a complex legacy. In this course we shall investigate the cultural anxieties of the period as they were reflected in the phenomenon of Victorian society’s penchant for ghost stories. We begin the course with a brief overview of the history of ghosts and their origins in folklore, followed by an equally brief look at the influence of Gothic writers, in whom the ghost evolved from a moral exemplar to a terror-inducing being, before succumbing to a satiric impulse based on its formulaic tendencies as described in Jane Austen’s Gothic parody, <i>Northanger Abbey</i> (1817).</p> <p>We then turn our attention to key figures in the proliferation of ghost stories in the 1830s—Charles Dickens, who popularized the Christmas ghost story, Sheridan Le Fanu, who produced darker stories than other writers, and the novelist Elizabeth Gaskell, one of many women writers (including Mary Elizabeth Braddon, Amelia Edwards, Margaret Oliphant, and Mrs. J.H. Riddell), who were drawn to the ghost story in the 1850s for reasons beyond those of mere practicality. Besides the influence of the Gothic, we shall take note of the impact of sensation fiction on the ghost story, as well as, in the 1880s and 1890s, the growth in readership which sustained the otherwise stale conventions of this fiction and pushed it into new areas and changing social attitudes, as manifested in the stories of Vernon Lee. We shall finish our survey of Victorian ghosts slightly beyond the death of Queen</p>

	<p>Victoria, in order to take advantage of the renewed energy and focus of the genre in the first decade of the twentieth century with its investment in scientific and technological changes, until such advancement was stalled by the brutal realities of the First World War.</p> <p>The course will be provided online through twice-weekly lectures on eclass, in conjunction with an online discussion forum.</p>
<b>Category:</b>	C
<b>Historical Requirement:</b>	Period II (1700-1900)
<b>Requirements:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) 2 Writing Assignments (6-8 double-spaced pages each @25%—50% in total)</li> <li>2) Final Test (online, timed @ 25%; held in the final class)</li> <li>3) Twice weekly participation in online discussion forum @25%)</li> </ol>
<b>Reading List:</b>	<p><b>All required texts will be available at the Yorku Bookstore.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) COX, Michael and R.A. Gilbert, eds. <i>The Oxford Book of Victorian Ghost Stories</i>.</li> <li>2) LEE, Vernon. <i>Hauntings and Other Fantastic Tales</i>. Ed. Catherine Maxwell and Patricia Pulham. Broadview Press, 2006*.</li> </ol> <p>*May be purchased as an ebook from the publisher.</p>
<b>Open To:</b>	Yr 4 Honours