

## FW 2025-26

<b>AP/EN 2170 3.0A (F)</b>	Horror and Terror: Variations on Gothic
<b>Course Director:</b>	Prof. Katarina O'Briain 620 Atkinson Ext. 22147 Email: <a href="mailto:kobriain@yorku.ca">kobriain@yorku.ca</a>
<b>Time:</b>	Mondays, 11:30–2:30
<b>Delivery Format:</b>	<b>X SEMINAR</b>
<b>Description:</b>	<p>This course examines gothic literature from the eighteenth to the twenty-first century. We will pay special attention to representations of race, class, gender, and sexuality and consider the genre's recurring discourses of otherness and monstrosity, nationalism and xenophobia, domesticity and the everyday, the dangers of scientific progress, and the return of the repressed, among many others. How, this course asks, does the literature of horror and terror engage some of the most urgent political questions of the past and the present? How does gothic disrupt, reproduce, or reconfigure social conventions? From its engagement with discourses of slavery and abolition to queer and postcolonial gothic, the genre offers a flexible vehicle for a variety of social critiques and concerns.</p> <p>Looking at gothic novels, poetry, short stories, and film, this course offers an introduction to the genre and its ongoing implications. Students will learn to identify and distinguish gothic conventions and to discuss and write about the politics and aesthetics of gothic literature over time. We will end by considering the ways in which gothic literature might be understood as a Western or Eurocentric concept that can be revised or disrupted by post/anti/decolonial writers.</p>
<b>Category:</b>	D
<b>Historical Requirement:</b>	N/A
<b>Requirements:</b>	<p>Essay 1 (1000 words), 25%</p> <p>Essay Proposal and Discussion, 10%</p> <p>Essay 2 (2000 words), 30%</p> <p>Participation, 15%</p> <p>Final Exam, 20%</p>
<b>Reading List:</b>	<p>Horace Walpole, <i>The Castle of Otranto</i> (Oxford)</p> <p>Mary Shelley, <i>Frankenstein</i> (Oxford)</p> <p>Sheridan Le Fanu, <i>Carmilla</i> (Oxford)</p> <p>Brief selections from Anne Radcliffe, Jane Austen, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Edgar Allen Poe, Shirley Jackson, Edwidge Danticat,</p>

	Mayra Montero, Nick Joaquin, Eden Robinson, and Carmen Maria Machado will be available as PDFs; and Alfred Hitchcock, <i>Rebecca</i> will be available to stream via the library website.
<b>Open To:</b>	YR 2, 3