



THE POPULAR GOTHIC NOVEL

PROF. DIVYA A

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INTENDED AUDIENCE : UG and PG students of English Literature. Researchers in Gothic Studies. Faculty of Literature seeking specializing in Gothic Studies.

INDUSTRIES APPLICABLE TO : British Library, American Embassy

COURSE OUTLINE :

Contents of the Course

- The course discusses the defining traits of the popular gothic novel in the eighteenth and nineteenth-century English fiction.
- The course traces the structures and implications of the various plots of the popular gothic novel that caught the imagination of the reading public in the eighteenth and nineteenth-century Britain.
- The course introduces the students to a wide range of eighteenth and nineteenth-century novelists who were practitioners of the gothic genre such as Horace Walpole, Ann Radcliffe, Mathew Lewis, Bram Stoker, Mary Shelley, Wilkie Collins, Charles Dickens, and Charlotte Brontë.

Objectives of the course

- The course aims to introduce students of literature to the distinctive features of the gothic novel, an immensely popular literary sub-genre from the late eighteenth and nineteenth century.
- The course deconstructs the narrative ingredients of this subgenre such as the supernatural (assumed and real), madness, and other insidious human behaviour in the context of the social, cultural and historical upheavals that were shaking up the social order of the eighteenth and nineteenth century.
- The course will also encourage students to explore the different thematic configurations of the gothic such as the “female gothic” and “the imperial gothic” to understand the cultural and historical anxieties reflected and refracted in such narrative consciousness.
- The course will also expose students to the complications in the gender dynamics embedded within the gothic narrative, and trace the literary and historical conditions that led to the construction of complex characters in this subgenre

ABOUT INSTRUCTOR :

Prof. Divya A is an Assistant Professor in English Literature in the Indian Institute of Technology Madras, India. Divya's research interests primarily revolve around explorations in the fields of gender, domesticity, spatiality, urbanism, and the interplay between the visual and the literary arts. After obtaining her Master of Studies degree in Early Modern English Literature from the University of Oxford, Divya completed her PhD in Nineteenth-Century English Fiction at Nanyang Technological University. She has published on Charles Dickens, Elizabeth Gaskell, Wilkie Collins, and the Pre-Raphaelites. Her current research project traces and maps the British colonial visual culture of Nineteenth-Century India.

COURSE PLAN :

Week 1: Introduction to the Gothic: Gothic Motifs

Week 2: Ann Radcliffe, *The Mysteries of Udolpho*
The ‘Explained Supernatural’, Gothic Sublime, and Aristocratic Villainy

Week 3: Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*
Female Gothic: Feminine Anxieties, Scientific Monsters, and Haunted Landscapes

Week 4: Jane Austen, *Northanger Abbey*
Mocking the Popoular Gothic

Week 5: Emily Bronte, *Wuthering Heights*
Byronic hero and ghostly women: Realism, Fantasy, Violence, and Cruelty

Week 6: Charlotte Bronte, *Jane Eyre*
Gothic Symbolism and Rebellion

Week 7: Charles Dickens, *A Christmas Carol*
Grotesque Gothic: Spectral City, Allegory, and Morality

Week 8: Bram Stoker, *Dracula*
Vampires, Moral Degeneration, Late-Victorian Anxieties

Week 9: Wilkie Collins, *The Moonstone*
Imperial Gothic: Mysticism, Irrationality, Otherness and Empire

Week 10: Arthur Conan Doyle, *The Hound of the Baskervilles*
Gothic Crime: The Anxieties of the Past and the Future

Week 11: Oscar Wilde, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*
Gothic terror: Dark Ambition, Aesthetics and Degeneracy

Week 12: Accommodating the Gothic in Domestic Realism