

English 4W: Critical Reading and Writing

Supernatural Sexuality

Time: TR 8-10am

Classroom: Haines 122

Instructor: Kersti Francis

Office: Kaplan A94

Office Hours:

Tuesdays 3-5pm

And by appointment

Why We're Here:

English 4W is an introduction to the basic methods of literary studies: close reading, critical writing, and scholarly research. It is also a chance to encounter texts, readings, and ideas that are both rigorous and unusual. Our popular and political cultures are obsessed with sex: who has it with whom, how, and is it right or wrong. In movies, TV, books, poems, and plays, the supernatural recurs as a way to grapple with these questions. Witches brew love spells, vampires visit young women at night, ghostly lovers haunt from beyond the grave, and gender roles flip or shift due to magical interference. Why do we envision sexuality through the lens of the supernatural? How can we use literatures, including those designated "bad literature," to think through cultural conceptions of gender, bodies, relationships, and morality? As we read, think, talk, and write about a variety of plays, novels, poems, and short stories, we will focus on literary form, cultural contexts, methods of research, and the craft of writing.

Required Texts:*Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, trans. Simon Armitage [ISBN: 9780393334159]*Macbeth*, William Shakespeare (Arden Edition) [ISBN: 9781904271413]*Carmilla*, Joseph Sheriden Le Fanu [ISBN: 9780815633112]*Twilight*, Stephenie Meyer [ISBN: 9780316015844]

Additional readings will be posted on the course website (CCLE).

Assignments and Grading

Participation (in-class work, writing workshops, discussion): 30%

Close Reading #1 (2-3 pages): 10%

Close Reading #2 (2-3 pages): 10%

Midterm Essay (5-6 pages): 20%□

Final Paper (8-10 pages): 30%

Expectations and Policies:**Participation:**

Discussion is intended to be collaborative; we are all responsible for our own education and for the learning experience of our classmates. Because of this, active preparation for and participation in discussion section is essential. Everyone is expected to come to discussion on time, complete all of the week's assigned reading, and bring a hard copy of the text(s) we have covered for the week. Please also bring something to write with and to write on. In order to get full credit for your in-section participation, you need to contribute to the discussion regularly and thoughtfully, and be attentive and courteous when someone else is speaking. I want to see that you have been thinking about the

reading, not simply skimming through it. **If you feel uncomfortable speaking in class, come and see me during office hours so that we can discuss participation strategies.**

Remember: you can't participate if you're not present!

Here are some possible ways to participate in class:

- a. Ask a question.
- c. Add to or respectfully disagree with what has been said.
- d. Introduce an alternate perspective.
- e. Provide textual evidence for an idea.
- f. Provide an idea for textual evidence.
- g. Draw our attention to a confusing or strange passage.

Discussion Etiquette:

Open and productive discussion cannot take place in a hostile learning environment. You are encouraged to form your own opinions and interpretations and to debate those of your classmates, but you must express your disagreement in a manner that is civil and respectful of the ideas and views of others. Constructive debate is permitted; personal attacks are not. Everyone has a right to be here and to be heard. Nobody has a right to silence others.

Technology:

Using Blackberries, iPhones, or other handheld wireless communication devices during class time is disrespectful, disruptive, and wholly against your own best interests. Please put them away during class time. I ask that you do not use laptops, tablets or e-readers in section, as they can be distracting and isolating, especially in a small discussion group. Paper and pen/pencil should be enough for everything we cover in section. If at any point I plan to assign an in-class activity requiring laptops or devices with internet access, I will let you know well in advance. **Of course, I also want this class to be accessible. Please email me and I will work to make this as flexible as possible for you!**

Assignments:

Essays

Because this is a writing course, we will of course be writing papers. But because good writers are also good readers, we will be reading poems, novels, short stories, and plays. We will work together in class and in small groups to help you generate ideas, formulate arguments, and gather evidence. I am available in office hours and by email, and am more than happy to help you as you hone your writing skills.

Reading:

Finish all of your assigned reading before the class it's due. In this class, we'll read medieval, early modern, Romantic, and modern-day texts side-by-side; there will be some Middle English and unfamiliar forms. I completely understand that this can be intimidating, especially if you're taking this solely to fulfill a requirement. Come to me with any questions or concerns about our required reading, access to texts, or challenges the readings present.

Proofread:

All submitted work must be thoroughly proofread. If you know that you struggle with grammar, spelling, or sentence mechanics, I would advise running your work by a friend or tutor, making an appointment at the Writing Center, or stopping by office hours to talk about your writing.

Late Policy:

All work must be turned in on the day that it is due. Please let me know well in advance if you think you will be unable to complete an assignment on time. Late assignments will be downgraded by one full grade for each day that they are late, *including weekends*. For example, if an assignment was due on Friday and is turned in on Sunday, the highest grade it could receive would be a C+. I will not accept assignments that are more than three days late.

Proper Format:

All assignments should be in Times New Roman, font size 12, with 1-inch margins. All papers must be in proper MLA format. For a good resource on proper MLA format, see the Purdue OWL website: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

Plagiarism:

Don't do it. The Office of the Dean of Students defines plagiarism as: "the presentation of another's words or ideas as if they were one's own." This can include, among other things, submitting part or all of someone else's work as your own; paraphrasing or quoting someone else's ideas, writing, data, or research without proper citation; and resubmitting, for credit in this class, work that you previously turned in for credit in a different class. Any assignment that is plagiarized in whole or in part will receive a zero and will be reported to the Office of the Dean of Students for further investigation. For more details, see the Student Guide to Academic Integrity (<http://www.deanofstudents.ucla.edu/Academic-Integrity/integrity>). If you're not sure if something constitutes a violation of UCLA's plagiarism code, ask me.

Contact:**Talk to Me:**

Please consider yourself invited to stop by my office during office hours. If you are unable to come during my office hours, you may email me to make an appointment. I am ready and willing to discuss your writing assignments, the texts we are reading, questions you may have about class, general academic concerns, etc.

Emails:

I will do my best to respond to any e-mails I receive Monday-Friday within 24 hours. Any e-mails sent after 5:00pm on Friday might not be answered until Monday. If, however, your email is about an urgent matter, then please make that clear, and I will respond as soon as I can. Please also keep in mind that emails require the same conventions as other formal correspondence, namely, a salutation, a conclusion, and attention to spelling and grammar.

Further Information and Resources:

Accessible Education: I take accessibility extremely seriously. Emotional, mental, and physical health are all critical to your education, and as your TA I want to support your learning as best I can. However, I can't help you if I don't know about it! If you wish to request an accommodation due to a suspected or documented disability, please contact the Center for Accessible Education (CAE) **as soon as possible**. In order to receive proper accommodations, you must register with the CAE and contact me ASAP. CAE is located at A255 Murphy Hall, and can be reached at: (310) 825-1501. For more information, visit: www.cae.ucla.edu. I'm also committed to cultivating a parent-friendly classroom. If finding childcare during section is a problem or other parenting concerns arise, just reach out to me and we'll come up with a solution.

UCLA Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS): CAPS is the student mental health center for the UCLA campus. They offer an array of free services including individual counseling. If you have concerns about your emotional and/or psychological health, you can make an appointment at John Wooden Center West, facing Drake Stadium, second floor, 310-825-0768, or at www.caps.edu. There is a counselor available by phone 24 hours a day. UCLA **CARE** (Campus Assault Resources & Education) is also housed in the CAPS building, and can be reached by the CAPS phone number. If you or someone you know is suffering/has suffered from stalking, sexual assault, or domestic violence, CARE is your first resource.

LGBT Campus Resource Center: A resource for LGBT-identified students, questioning students, and/or allies. They provide educational workshops, advocacy, and counseling, among other services. For more information, visit: <http://www.lgbt.ucla.edu/>, call (310)206-3628, or drop by Student Activities Center B36.

The Student Writing Center: A valuable resource for you while you're working on papers! It is staffed by peer learning facilitators and offers UCLA undergraduates one-on-one tutoring sessions at any stage in the writing process. Make an appointment by visiting www.wp.ucla.edu and clicking on "Student Writing Center/Make an Appointment." For questions, call 310-206-1320, email wcenter@ucla.edu, or drop in.

The Oxford English Dictionary: <http://oed.com/> is a wonderful resource. The OED calls itself "the definitive record of the English language" for a reason. The dictionary has thorough definitions, along with records of when and how each word has been used in various contexts. A must for close-reading.

Purdue Online Writing Lab: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/> This is a great website for any questions you might have about the nuts and bolts of paper writing.

The UCLA Libraries and Library Website: Jam-packed with helpful resources. Our UCLA Librarians are extremely knowledgeable and willing to help you with your research questions. Visit: <http://www.library.ucla.edu/> or drop by any UCLA library for more info.

Reading Schedule

Assignments are to be read in preparation for the day they are listed.

Week One: Fairy Lovers

Marie de France, *Lanval* (12th century, CCLE)
Introduction to Middle English

Sir Degaré (14th century, CCLE)
Introduction to Close Reading

Week Two: Monsters and Magic

Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, Fitts I and II (14th century)

Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, Fitt III

Week Three: M&M, cont.

Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, Fitt IV
Close Reading #1 due via email by start of class (2-3 pages)

The Wedding of Sir Gawain and Dame Ragnell (15th century, CCLE)

Week Four: Wives, Witches, and Murder

William Shakespeare, *Macbeth* (1603), Acts I-III

Macbeth, Acts IV-V

Week Five: Kersti is MIA

NO CLASS
Go to the Writing Center!

Film Screening: *Rebecca* (Alfred Hitchcock, 1940)
First Paper Due due via email by start of class (5-6 pages)

Week Six: Haunted Love

Edgar Allan Poe, "Annabelle Lee" (1849, CCLE)
Laura Chow Reeve, "Rebecca" (2018, CCLE)

Christina Rossetti, *Goblin Market* (1862, CCLE)

Week Seven: The Queer Undead

Joseph Sheriden Le Fanu, *Carmilla* (1872)

Carmilla (2014, selections, Youtube)

Week Eight: Vampires Sparkle Now

Stephenie Meyer, *Twilight* (2005), Chapters 1-6

Close Reading Two Due due via email by start of class (2-3 pages)

Twilight, Chapters 7-12

Week Nine: And Play Baseball

Twilight, Chapters 13-18

Twilight, Chapters 19-end

Week Ten: TV Reimaginings

Selected Episodes, *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* (1997-2003)

Selected Episodes, *The Chilling Adventures of Sabrina* (2018)

Final Class: Wrap-Up