

## Horror, Myth, and Legend in English Literature COOPERATIVE CENTER FOR STUDY ABROAD LONDON SUMMER PROGRAM

### Contact Information

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This course is a study of the literary manifestations of horror, myth, and legend as they appear in the works of such writers as Tolkien, Stoker, Mallory, and others.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** In this course, we will address English and British literature as it relates to horror, myth, and legend. During the course

- A. we will understand the nature, development, and function of myth and legend in culture and in literary works, and the nature and function of mythic archetypes;
- B. we will develop an understanding of the nature and characteristics of fantasy literature and its relationship to its audience;
- C. we will develop an understanding of Arthurian legends, their origins and development, their historical basis, their lasting power, their appearance in art and literature, and their persistence;
- D. we will learn about modern mythmaking and fantasy as seen in Tolkien;
- E. we will analyze origins and characteristics of vampire legends and the role of Bram Stoker's novel *Dracula* in shaping the modern image of vampires.
- F. we will learn about the social, literary, and cultural background and significance of Jack the Ripper, and the creation of a new legend from a Jack the Ripper walking tour in London.

### CONTENT OUTLINE:

- A. Canonical texts in the horror, myth, legend, and fantasy genres
- B. Field trips to Warwick Castle, Glastonbury, Oxford, and sites around London including the British Museum, British Library, Wellcome Trust Centre
- C. Historical discussions of King Arthur, vampires, and Jack the Ripper

**INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITIES:** Class discussion, group work, short viewings of films related to course content, field trips in and around London.

**FIELD, CLINICAL, AND/OR LABORATORY EXPERIENCES:** We will visit Warwick Castle, Glastonbury Tor and Glastonbury Abbey, Oxford, attend a performance of *The Tempest*, and take a walking tour of Jack the Ripper's haunts.

### TEXTS AND RESOURCES:

- Thomas Malory, *Le Morte D'Arthur: King Arthur and the Legends of the Round Table*
- J.R.R. Tolkien, *The Hobbit*
- Bram Stoker, *Dracula*

- Paul Begg, *Jack the Ripper: The Definitive History*
- Assorted readings posted online
- Assorted videos

#### **EVALUATION AND GRADING PROCEDURES:**

**For students earning 100-200 level credit:**

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Points Available</b>
Class Exercises 8 @ 15 points each	120
Text-Related Journal Entries 8 @ 25 points each	200
Field Trip Journal Entries 4 @ 25 points each	100
Culture-Related journal Entries 2 @ 25 points each	50
Forum Post Entries 4 @ 25 course each	100
Class Report 1 @ 30 course points	30
Final Examination	400

**For students earning 300-400 level credit:**

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Points Available</b>
Text-Related Journal Entries 4@ 25 course points each	100
Close Reading Essay	100
Field Trip Journal Entries 4 @ 25 points each	100
Culture-related journal entries 2 @ 25 points each	50
Forum post entries 4 @ 25 points each	100
Class report	30
Final examination	350
Discussion Leader	50
Class Exercises 8 @ 15 points each	120

**IX. ATTENDANCE POLICY:** CCSA's official policy requires mandatory attendance, and you will lose a letter grade from your course grade for each unexcused absence from a class or a field trip. On this matter there is absolutely no compromise.

#### **XI. ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY:**

CCSA takes seriously its moral and educational obligation to maintain high standards of academic honesty and ethical behavior. Instructors are expected to evaluate students'

academic achievements accurately, as well as ascertain that work submitted by students is authentic and the result of their own efforts, and consistent with established academic standards. Students are obligated to respect and abide by the basic standards of personal and professional integrity.

I expect you to know the difference between deliberate cheating and constructive collaboration. Our class is a community of learners, and as such we can offer suggestions to each other without infringing upon the academic honesty policy. **Any student found committing academic dishonesty will fail the course.**

#### **XI. NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY STATEMENT:**

##### Policy Statement

This program endorses the intent of all federal and state laws created to prohibit discrimination, and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, religion, age, veteran status, or disability in employment, admissions, or the provision of services and provides, upon request, reasonable accommodation including auxiliary aids and services necessary to afford individuals with disabilities equal access to participate in all programs and activities.

##### Students with Disabilities

Students requiring special assistance due to a disability should contact CCSA directly for accommodation.

Class Schedule: Details with CE questions and journal topics will be in a separate handout.

Date	Reading	Activity	Assignment Due
<b>WEEK ONE</b>			
Monday, July 10		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Class orientation</li> <li>• Intro to horror, myth, and legend archetypes</li> <li>• Intro to Arthurian legend and history</li> </ul>	Class Exercise 1 (CE) Text-Related Journal 1 (TRJ)
Wednesday, July 12	Mallory, <i>Le Morte d'Arthur</i>		CE2 TRJ2
Thursday, July 13		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fieldtrip to Warwick Castle and Stratford-upon-Avon</li> </ul>	
<b>WEEK TWO</b>			
Monday, July 17	Continue Mallory, <i>Le Morte d'Arthur</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legend in <i>The Hobbit</i></li> <li>• Prepare for fieldtrip to Glastonbury</li> <li>• Prepare for <i>The Tempest</i></li> </ul>	CE3 TRJ3 Field Trip Journal 1 (FTJ)
Tuesday, July 18		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fieldtrip to Glastonbury Tor and Glastonbury Abbey</li> </ul>	
Wednesday, July 19	Tolkien, <i>The Hobbit</i>		CE4 TRJ4
<b>WEEK THREE</b>			
Monday, July 24	Stoker, <i>Dracula</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Begin discussion of</li> </ul>	CE5 TRJ5

		horror literature, vampires	FTJ2
Wednesday, July 26	Stoker, <i>Dracula</i>	• Visit Wellcome Collection	CE6 TRJ6 Culture-related journal 1 (CRJ)
Thursday, July 27		• Fieldtrip to Oxford	
WEEK FOUR			
Monday, July 31	<i>Dracula</i> Prepare for fieldtrip		CE7 TRJ7 FTJ3
Tuesday, August 1		• London fieldtrip	
Wednesday, August 2	Begg, <i>Jack the Ripper</i>		CE8 TRJ8 CRJ2
Friday, August		Final Exam	FTJ4

#### Required Course Field Trips:

- Keep in mind that you must have **three days of your Britrail pass** available for these field trips.
  - Allow for the cost of admission where applicable.
  - The first three trips are full day from early morning to evening so you will need to have money for meals (and for whatever souvenir buying you want to do).
- ❑ **Warwick Castle**—a wonderfully preserved castle that affords a fantastic opportunity to see what it would have been like throughout the ages to live there. They do lots of exhibitions—longbows, knights in armor, even a working trebuchet. (Requires a day of Britrail Pass) **Stratford**---We will visit the town in which Shakespeare was born, grew up, and was buried in. (You may choose to visit several locations for which there are fees or just see the free sights around Stratford.)
  - ❑ **Glastonbury Abbey**—the premiere Arthurian site where Arthur and Guinevere were alleged to have been buried and also where the Holy Grail is supposed to be buried. And there's a magical spring, of course. Glastonbury also has other ancient and mystical associations. We will climb Glastonbury Tor, a 500 foot mount with a spectacular view. (Requires a day of Britrail Pass)
  - ❑ **Oxford**—defies description. It's like stepping into another world there. Tolkien and C. S. Lewis and their pals used to teach and hang out there. We might be able to lunch in the Eagle and Child pub that they regularly met in. Christ Church College (part of Oxford Univ.) is where Lewis Carroll taught and where he wrote *Alice in Wonderland*. (Requires a day of Britrail Pass)

- ❑ **London---**Three sites related to Dracula and Jack the Ripper. A great cemetery and even the crematorium where Bram Stoker's ashes are. Highgate Cemetery even has its own non-Dracula vampire story. (It's also where Karl Marx and George Eliot and Douglas Adams are buried.) There is also a guided nighttime walking tour of the actual Jack the Ripper sites. This one actually has a few fairly creepy London streets.