

Summer 2020

AP/EN 2170 3.0M (S2)

Horror and Terror: Variations on Gothic

Course Director:

Dr. Marilou McKenna
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Delivery Format:

Fully Online

Time:

NA

Description:

The concept of theme and variations as one type of musical form offers a useful strategy for unpacking the title and the rationale of EN 2710—Horror and Terror: Variations on Gothic. For if Gothic is the literary form, then horror and terror constitute its main theme, and the course will explore variations of this theme. While on a more general level, variation can be defined as a different or unique way of doing, saying, or expressing something that has been done in the past (free dictionary.com), if we pursue the musical analogy further, we note how composers repeat the main melody or theme, but with variations achieved through formal techniques such as key changes (major to minor), time signature (eg., 4/4 to $\frac{3}{4}$), rhythmical variation such as syncopation, and by “decorating” an otherwise plain melodic line.

Category:

D

Historical Requirement:

NA

Requirements:

Essay 1 (4-5 pages, double-spaced @ 20%)—due in the second week of the course
Essay 2 (5-6 pages, double-spaced @ 30%)—due in the fourth week of the course
Final Test (online, 3-hr timed @ 40%)—due on the course end date of August 12, 2020
Online Discussion Forum (10%)

Reading List:

All texts are required in the editions ordered into the York Bookstore, although ebooks by the same publishers are acceptable (order ebooks directly from the respective publishers).

Gothic Evolutions: Poetry, Tales, Context, Theory, ed. Corinna Wagner (Broadview Press)

The Castle of Otranto & The Mysterious Mother, Horace Walpole (Broadview Press)

Mister Sandman: a Novel, Barbara Gowdy (Harper Perennial Canada)

Ghost Town: Tales of Manhattan Then and Now, Patrick McGrath (Bloomsbury Press)

Open To:

Open Spaces