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ENG 3010C-002: Literary Masterworks

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English 3010--002
Literary Masterworks
Spring, 1999

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CH 312 (581-6290)
Office Hours:
Wed., 1-4:00 and by appointment

Texts:

The Awakening, Chopin
Beowulf, Donaldson, trans.
Frankenstein, Shelley
Gulliver's Travels, Swift
Moby Dick, Melville
The Old Man and the Sea, Hemingway
The Portable Conrad, Conrad
The Tempest, Shakespeare

General Comments:

As the above reading list might suggest, we will be reading about the sea and various monsters therein, or perhaps, within--within us, that is. Great literature takes us on a vast ocean of feelings, and literary masterworks, whenever they were written and by whomever they were given life, always remind us that we share a world that frightens us. Fear is the primitive source of human religions and, at the same time, the well-spring of love and human community. The first thunderclap heard by the real Fred Flintstone probably created swear words and genuflection simultaneously.

We love to scare ourselves at amusement parks and horror movies, but we can sometimes be more profoundly frightened in our own homes, walking down a dark hall to the bathroom, suddenly running and groping for a light to dispel the self-created horror that can also make us laugh at our seemingly childish fear. Consider the word, "scream," for a moment. Is it one of joy or terror?

Are our fears external or internal? Are they both? And what about monsters, those grotesque figures crawling out of the sea or swamp or haunted imagination? What was crawling under your bed when you were a kid? What still is?

Requirements:

1. class participation (25%)
2. daily quizzes (25%)
3. two papers on assigned topics, 4-5 pages each, typed (25%)
4. a comprehensive final exam (25%)