Spring 1-15-1999

ENG 5009-001: Nineteenth-Century American Gothic: Formed in Fright

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NINETEENTH-CENTURY AMERICAN GOTHIC:
FORMED IN FRIGHT

Instructor: John Allison
Office: Coleman, 316F
Hours: M: 11-12:00, 2-3:00, 6-7:00; W: 11-12:00, 2-3:00; F: 11-12:00
Phones: Office (581-6978), Home (348-0269)

Aims of Course

- Close Reading of Selected Texts by Charles Brockden Brown, Edgar Allan Poe, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Emily Dickinson, Louisa May Alcott, and Henry James

- High Level of Discussion Concerning Literary, Psychological, and Cultural Implications of Gothic Works in the United States During the Nineteenth Century

- Recognition of Significant Parallels and Departures in Theme and Technique Among the Works

- Opportunity to Synthesize Your Own Ideas in Weekly Writing Assignments, an Extended Critical Essay, and a Comprehensive Examination

- Opportunity for Substantial Research Concerning Major Authors and Themes Related to 19th-Century American Literature

Components of the Grade

- Weekly Written Responses (300-400 words each): 30%

- Critical Essay (14-15 pages, plus Works Cited): 45%

- Final Examination (2 essays – one in class, one out of class): 25%

OVER
Students with Disabilities: If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.
Tentative Schedule

1. Week of January 11
   - Introduction to Course
   - Literary/Historical Background
   - Handout and Discussion: Freneau/Poe

2. Week of January 18: NO CLASSES (King's Birthday)


   - "The Minister's Black Veil" (872)
   - "Young Goodman Brown" (1033)
   - "Ethan Brand" (1184)
   - "Egotism: or, The Bosom Serpent" (1106)
   - "The Birthmark" (1021)
   - "Rappaccini's Daughter" (1043)

5. Week of February 8: The Psychology of the Damned: Poe's Tales – and one poem
   - "The Black Cat" (223)
   - "The Tell-Tale Heart" (303)
   - "The Man of the Crowd" (482)
   - "William Wilson" (626)
   - "Morrela" (667)
   - "Ligeia" (654)
   - "Berenice" (642)
   - "The Raven" (943)

6. Week of February 15: The Fall of the House
   - Poe's "The Fall of the House of Usher" (231)
   - Hawthorne's The House of the Seven Gables

7. Week of February 22: The Fall of the House
   - Melville's Pierre: or the Ambiguities
   - Dickinson's "One need not be a Chamber" (333)

8. Week of March 1: Fantastic Voyage
   - Poe's Narrative of Arthur Gordon Pym (748)
   - "MS. Found in a Bottle" (118)

9. Week of March 8: Fantastic Voyage
   - Moby-Dick (to chapter 60)

SPRING BREAK
10. Week of March 22: Poe and The Poetry of Death – and two stories

11. Week of March 29: Dickinson and The Poetry of Death

12. Week of April 5: Mystery and Detection
   -Poe’s “The Murders in the Rue Morgue” (141)
   -Hawthorne: The Blithedale Romance
   -Melville: “Benito Cerezo”

13. Week of April 12: Louisa May Alcott Goes Gothic
   -“Behind a Mask, or A Woman’s Power”
   -“Pauline’s Passion and Punishment
   -“The Mysterious Key and What It Opened”
   -“The Abbot’s Ghost, or Maurice Treherne’s Temptation”

14. Week of April 19: The Destruction of Innocence: Hawthorne’s The Marble Faun

15. Week of April 25: The Destruction of Innocence; CRITICAL ESSAY DUE
   -Melville’s Billy Budd
   -James’s The Turn of the Screw