

* A New Course for Summer 2021!



ENGL 4790 **Studies in Genre: The Gothic Imagination**

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Ghosts, ghouls, goblins, and things that go bump in the night. The world of Gothic Fiction is at once familiar and strange, filled with both recognizable figures or features and unknown secrets that have yet to be revealed. This course explores the continuing development of Gothic Fiction, from its inception to the present. To do so, we return to the genre's origins in the late eighteenth century and consider how the Gothic imagination inspired iconic works of fiction, poetry, and drama. We then pursue Gothic Literature as it transforms before our eyes from Romanticism's monstrous doubles, to the female specters of Victorianism, to Modernism's apocalyptic anxieties. As a final twist, we discover how Gothic Fiction appears today and consider possible futures for this historical genre. From Poe to Lovecraft, Radcliffe to *Riverdale*, our course readings will reveal how the gothic imagination, along with its many tropes, character types, and evolving conventions, has haunted English literature for more than two hundred years.