



# THOMPSON RIVERS UNIVERSITY

## **Course Outline**

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Department of English and Modern Languages  
Faculty of Arts

**English 4770: 3 credits  
Monster Literature (3,0,0)  
Summer 2021 (asynchronous/online)**

Instructor: Dr. Steve Jones

Email: stjones@tru.ca

Office hours: By phone/email and  
scheduled video conferencing

**Calendar Description:**

Students will study the important role that monsters have played in literature, from the time of Greek mythology to the modern incarnation of the quintessential monsters in Mary Shelley's Frankenstein and Robert Louis Stevenson's The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. Often, monsters are symbols of the struggle between good and evil, but there is also a deeper role for the monster as a warning, sign, or instruction about human folly, and it is in this sense that we get our modern word "monster" today. This course will explore the origins of the monstrous and the varied roles monsters have played in literature especially of this Romantic and post-Romantic period.

**Course Description:**

Students explore literary topics, themes, or issues within the discipline. Topics may vary depending on faculty and student interest and current developments in the field. Prerequisite: 6 credits of first-year English (with the exception of ENGL 1150) or equivalent and Prerequisite: completion of 45 credits or Prerequisite: permission of instructor or department Chair.

### **Required Texts**

The course will use a combination of eTexts available in the public domain, video, audio, and texts provided by the instructor in digital and handout form, including video, film, and the core text (available on the course platform) which is Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*. Other online and free resources for students will be included in the lesson notes each week.

### **Educational Objectives:**

At the completion of the course, students should be able to do the following:

- critically discuss the historical origins of magic tropes in literature, beginning with myths of ancient cultures which inform English literature;
- recognize the link between magical tropes and contemporary beliefs about the meaning of life;
- understand and describe some of the key perennial and universal archetypes, tropes, motifs, and themes found in fantasy literature;
- compare and contrast at least two different approaches to life and meaning expressed through magical tropes in literature;
- grow in confidence in forming, explaining, and defending a thesis about the use of magic in literature;
- Contribute to online discussion boards, forums, and video meetings.

### **Prerequisite:**

English 12/English 12 First Peoples with a minimum of 73% (with the government exam within the last 5 years); or level 5 on the compositions section of the Language Proficiency Index (LPI), with all other categories of the LPI at a minimum of 70% (within the last 2 years); or satisfactory completion of the TRU English Assessment (ACCUPLACER) at the university entrance level; or completion of ENGL 0600 with a grade of C+ or better; or completion of ESAL 0570 and ESAL 0580 with a grade of C+ or better.

### **Assignments & Grading:**

Quizzes & Class Assignments	20%
Research Essay	30%
Final Exam	30%
Participation & Attendance	20%

Class participation includes: discussions, active listening and asking questions, demonstration of understanding of research and writing steps, etc. Students are expected to contribute to online discussions via the course forum page.

## **Policies:**

1. Late papers and assignments will receive a 5% deduction per day unless the student obtains extension from the instructor.
2. Given the limitation of access to printers, essays can be emailed, and written in MS Word or Google Docs (12 point, Times Roman or other easy-to-read font);
3. Students who need to miss lessons, or portions of a lesson for work or community-related reasons should speak with the instructor beforehand, so that provisions can be made to help the student stay up-to-date with the required course work.
4. Please refer to the complete policy and regulations surrounding academic dishonesty in your TRU calendar or at [www.tru.ca/policy/educ/index.html](http://www.tru.ca/policy/educ/index.html) for detailed information on plagiarism.
5. Inappropriate classroom behavior will get you a request to leave the class; repetition may result in permanent suspension. “Inappropriate” includes, but is not necessarily limited to, talking when others are addressing the group, entering or leaving the classroom casually when it is in session, repeated late arrivals, failure to turn off cell phones, reading or doing other homework while class is in session. In other words, I expect you to treat this course as a professional environment and act accordingly!

## **English 4770 - Course Syllabus (Summer 2021)**

<b>Lesson</b>	<b>Lesson Outline</b>
1	Welcome, orientation and course outline & expectations. Overview of monsters: meaning and purpose: a phenomenological approach
2	The function of the monstrous in language: apophtic and cataphatic; Carl Jung on Fear and philosophical dimensions of monstrous language.
3	Monster overview: monsters throughout literature: features, commonalities, and functions.
4	Ancient and medieval attitudes to monsters; introduction to key themes in Mary Shelley’s Frankenstein (students should have read the novel by this point).
5	David Williams’ “Monstrous Discourse”: excerpts, analysis and discussion.
6	Monsters in modern literature and film.
	<b>Essay Due</b>
7	<b>Student research topics; Final exam</b>