

VICTORIAN HORROR STORY



EN 8543: STUDIES IN ENGLISH LITERATURE, 1832-1900

Dr. Shalyn Claggett

Texts:

Anne Brontë, *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall* (ISBN#: 0199207550)

Wilkie Collins, *The Woman in White* (ISBN#: 0199535639)

Sheridan Le Fanu, *In a Glass Darkly* (ISBN#: 0199537984)

Bram Stoker, *Dracula* (ISBN#: 0393970124)

Oscar Wilde, *The Picture of Dorian Gray* (ISBN#: 0393927547)

Charles Dickens, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* (ISBN# 0140439269)

*****N.B. You are REQUIRED to use the EXACT editions specified (by ISBN#) above*****

This class aims to examine the development of the Victorian horror story within the context of emergent scientific, technological, and psychiatric thought in nineteenth-century Britain. Our study will entail a careful examination of work by Victorian writers who penned narratives about ghosts, insanity, drug addiction, doppelgängers, vampires, and murderers. By examining Victorian literature in its historical context, this course aims at better understanding how these writers exploited and directed the public's macabre fascination with the darker side of human nature.

Course Requirements:

Two exams, an annotated critical bibliography, weekly 1-page reflections, a class presentation, and a long, well-researched and finely crafted essay.