

# The Gothic Sublime

EN4747: British Romantic Literature and Culture

Fall 2020, 2-3:15, Professor: Peter Degabriele



The late 18<sup>th</sup> century saw the creation and flourishing of the genre of Gothic fiction. One of the features of this new genre was the consistent use of the literary form of the sublime. Indeed, this period saw a renewed fascination with the sublime in literary, critical, and philosophical works. This class will delve into the history of gothic fiction, while also examining theories of the sublime from Ancient Greece to the contemporary world. In doing so, the class will look at how and why interest in the sublime peaked during the period of the French Revolution, and thus ask questions about how literary forms and genres relate to socio-political events.

We will read literature by Ann Radcliffe, Clara Reeve, Mary Shelley, Matthey Lewis, and Jane Austen and criticism by Longinus, Burke, Kant, and Baudrillard.