

EN3L5 TALES OF TERROR: GOTHIC AND THE SHORT FORM
SECOND ASSESSMENT – 4000 word ESSAY

This assignment is worth 70% of the overall module mark.

DEADLINE: submit on Tabula by **12pm on TUESDAY 17th January 2023** (Term 2, week 2)

Choose **one of the ten options below** and create your own specific thesis based on that option. I strongly advise coming and discussing your ideas with me in an office hour.

You may use primary and secondary material from the course, but your assignment must also include **evidence of original research** using digital and/or physical **primary resources** as well as **secondary reading and engagement**.

The greater number of texts you examine should be examples of long nineteenth century Gothic short pieces (c.1780-1920) **from beyond the course**.

You are welcome to use some of the contents from your first assessment anthology/anthology reviews, but the essence of the topic/argument must be different. Check with me if unsure.

Essays should adhere to the English department presentation guidelines as per <https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/english/currentstudents/undergraduate/essay>

Note we use MLA or MHRA referencing.

Extensions should be sought via **self-certs** on Tabula (under the personal circumstances tab) or using the **specific extension button** on tabula next to the assignment (this route requires evidence of unexpected circumstances).

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1. Using 2-4 examples of individual pieces first published in the long nineteenth century (c.1780-1920), consider the relationship between the Gothic and “the Fragment” and/or the idea of Fragmentation.

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2. Using digital and/or print sources, consider the relationship between individual Gothic short pieces and the culture, format, readership etc of periodical publication.

NB: You might consider whether you want to compare different periodicals across a narrow time frame, or look at one periodical over a short or extended period, or even one single issue in detail. You may want to think about readership, editorship, and authorship, and/or to think about content between Gothic short fiction and what else is in the periodical, think about illustrations, formatting, advertisements, historical development, or a specific moment, etc.

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3. Using between 1-3 short Gothic stories originally published in the long nineteenth century (c.1780-1920), and then subsequent editions of those same stories (from any period), conduct an investigation into the process of revision.

NB: You may want to consider changes in format (e.g. an interpolated tale from a novel or travel book now being made into a single story, or lengthening/shortening, or ballad to prose etc), changes in publication space (commercial / literary, digital / physical, periodical / volume) and/or concentrate on textual differences.

- Using 1-3 examples of individual pieces first published in the long nineteenth century (c.1780-1920), investigate the influence of folklore on the Gothic Short Form of the long nineteenth century.

NB: You might look at specific legends and beliefs, spaces, creatures etc infused into literature, and/or the practice of collecting folklore/folklore scholarship and/or think about how examples of folklore legends function as a form of the gothic. You might look at a specific form (such as ballads) or you might want to focus on the Oral tradition of story-telling and take into account frame narratives, illustrations, think about this one piece in relation to its publication space, and/or you may want to focus on specific aspects such as narrators or spaces, or style etc.

- Using 2-4 examples of the short form first published in the long nineteenth century (c.1780-1920), explore the topographies of the Gothic.

NB: These might be interior exterior or a mixture of both. It might be topographies of the body or the mind. You might take ecocritical approaches, or historically based investigations into colonial practices or the frontier ideology, or think about gender/class/race within those topographies. You might think about the topographies of publication (digital, print, the page etc). You might theme it around types of spaces (glacial, desert, sea etc) or look at cities versus rural and so on.

- Using 1-3 examples of the short form first published in the long nineteenth century (c.1780-1920), explore the relationship between the Gothic and the visual.

NB: This might be the textual and/or the pictorial. You might restrict to sub-genre (e.g. ghosts or monsters) or might think about specific technologies, or theories of obscurity etc.

- Using 2-4 examples of the short form first published in the long nineteenth century (c.1780-1920), consider the relationship between the Gothic short form and ideologies of Empire and/or Nation.

- Conduct an exploration of the reader/author and/or narrator relationship in 1-3 examples of the Gothic short form first published in the long nineteenth century (c.1780-1920).

- Using 2-4 examples of the short form first published in the long nineteenth century (c.1780-1920), explore the function of the Gothic in the presentation of one or more of gender/sexuality/race/class/ability or vice versa how they create the Gothic effect.

- Using 2-4 examples of the short form first published in the long nineteenth century (c.1780-1920), interrogate the use of the temporal in the Gothic.

NB: This might be one or more of the seasonal, night-time or a specific hour, time loops and recurrences, or anniversaries, time-pieces that signify time (clocks, bells, watches), the disruption of time, the relationship between time and space, historical settings, etc.