

The Gothic Imagination



Example Syllabus

JOIN DR CARNEY AND DR CARTWRIGHT FOR TWO WEEKS IN ENGLAND

This interdisciplinary course allows students to connect medieval history with the imagined “medieval” of 18th century Gothic literature.

Our class will probe several questions: why did the Gothic emerge in the late 18th century? To what extent was it a response to the Enlightenment? How did medieval times serve as an aesthetic resource for key Gothic writers such as Walpole, Radcliffe, and Lewis? How does the reimagined “medieval” of the 18th century compare with the actual historical context for medieval literature and architecture? To what extent does the 18th-century Gothic compare to the modern Gothic (i.e. Goth culture, horror literature and film)?

To help us answer these questions our class will visit the medieval city of York, the Yorkshire countryside, and London. We will see Gothic cathedrals at York and Canterbury, ruined abbeys such as Whitby and Fountains, 18th century landscape gardens, and visit Strawberry Hill House, the home of Horace Walpole and first 18th century Gothic Revival building.

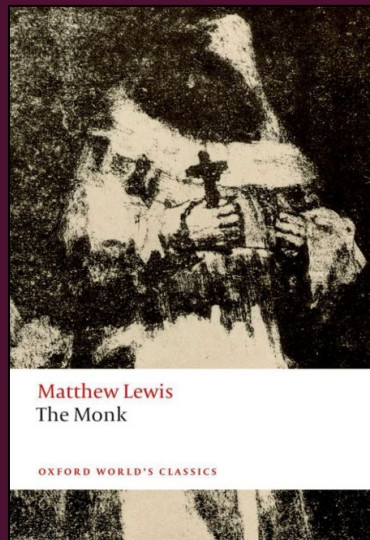
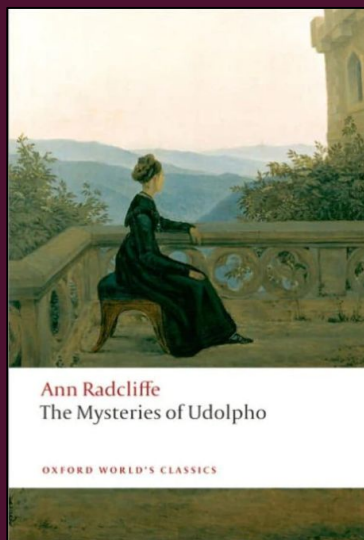
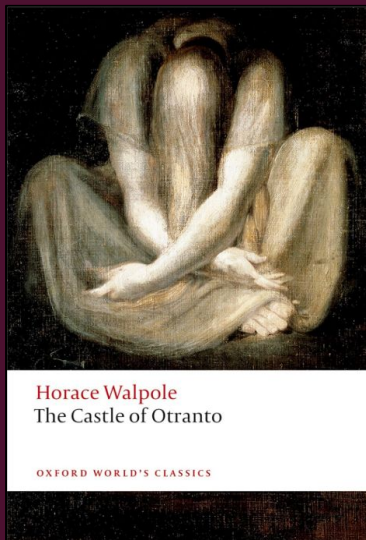
If you have any concerns about the physical requirements of this course, please email Dr. Carney or Dr. Cartwright to discuss your needs in advance, and definitely before you put down a deposit. We will do everything we can to make this trip accessible for you.

While in England we will be walking and taking public transport, including trains and buses. You should expect to be walking over cobbles and uneven pavement every day, and to be on your feet for several hours a day. Our hotels have elevators, as do most of the train/tube stations, but we typically have to carry our suitcases up or down at least one flight of stairs.

English restaurants, pubs, and cafes all accommodate dietary restrictions, and our experience is that menus have clearer labels and better variety of options than you find in the US for those who are vegan/vegetarian, gluten free, dairy free, etc.

The sites we visit have varying levels of accessibility, and all provide some accommodation for visitors with mobility limitations.

Example Readings



Horace Walpole's
Castle of Otranto

Ann Radcliffe's
Mysteries of Udolpho

M.G. Lewis'
The Monk.

Example Assignments

Journal Responses: All students are given a physical journal to write in. Responses can include:

- Pre-Discussion Writing: respond to an assigned prompt to gather your thoughts, articulate reactions to readings, and to ask compelling questions before the class discussions.
- Site Visit Reflection: After each site visit we will send you prompts to respond to. Use these entries to connect your experience of the sites with the readings, the other site visits, and the discussions we have had in class.

Research Project: A 6-8 page research essay on a topic in Gothic culture or medieval history that incorporates a substantive survey of relevant scholarship (5 secondary sources minimum). This project will be completed during the summer after our return.

Final Exam: will be completed in the UK, expect to write by hand.

Example Itinerary: Schedule and sites subject to change

Day 1 Evening Departure to the UK

Day 2 Arrive at London's Heathrow Airport / Train from King's Cross Station to York

Day 3 Tour York Minster and St Mary's Abbey

Day 4 Day trip to Whitby Abbey

Day 5 Morning Seminar / Afternoon free

Day 6 Day trip to Fountains Abbey

Day 7 Morning Seminar / afternoon free

Day 8 Day trip to Castle Howard

Day 9 Morning Seminar / Afternoon High Tea

Day 10 Travel from York to London / Bloomsbury Walking Tour

Day 11 Day Trip to Canterbury Cathedral

Day 12 Morning visit to Westminster Abbey / afternoon free

Day 13 Morning conferences / afternoon trip to Painshill Park

Day 14 Morning free / afternoon trip to Strawberry Hill House

Day 15 Final Exam / afternoon free

Day 16 Depart from London Heathrow to return to the USA

