# WRT 571-3: Individual Aesthetic and Process

# Spring 2024

# Contact and Course Information

**Instructor:** Professor Stephanie Wytovich (Gallagher)

**Student**: Shannon Marzella

**Telephone:** 724-825-9343 (cell)

**Email:** [gallaghers@wcsu.edu](mailto:gallaghers@wcsu.edu) / wyt3319@gmail.com

**Course Credit Hours:** 4

## Course Description

The program requires students to develop a sense of their own voices and to learn how to be self-critical about their writing. The student will write a theory of writing that examines his or her own view of what makes effective and significant writing. The goal is to develop standards of value appropriate to the genre in which the writer wishes to excel. The writer must articulate a theoretical basis that involves awareness of critical perspectives on his or her principal genre.

## Course Learning Outcomes

* Explore both classic and contemporary horror novels;
* Uncover common tropes/approaches within the genre;
* Gain an understanding of the horror aesthetic in the present-day market;
* Analyze texts through close reading

## Books/Materials Required

* *The Haunting of Hill House* by Shirley Jackson
* *The Haunting of Alejandra* by V. Castro
* *A Guest in the House* by Emily Carroll
* *Heliophobia* by Saba Syed Razvi
* *Hag: Forgotten Folktales Retold* by Daisy Johnson
* *Rosemary’s Baby* by Ira Levin
* *Rebecca* by Daphne Du Maurier
* *A Haunted History of Invisible Women: True Stories of America's Ghosts* by Leanna Renee Hieber and Andrea Janes

**Recommended films:**

* *A Haunting in Venice (2023)*
* *Spring (2014)*
* *The Babadook (2014)*

# Course Expectations

## Attendance and Participation

This course will be asynchronous with deadlines on Wednesdays at midnight (unless stated otherwise). Please be present and check your email often for discussion and communication.

## Grading

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Course Requirements | Percentage or Points |
| Self-Assessments | 25 each (50 points) |
| Discussion posts | 5 each (25 points) |
| Reading Responses | 100 each (400) |
| Midterm | TBA |
| Final | 100 |
| Writing Prompts | 25 each (50 points) |

### Letter Grades

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Letter Grade | Range |
| A | 100% to 94% |
| A- | <94% to 90% |
| B+ | <90% to 87% |
| B | <87% to 84% |
| B- | <84% to 80% |
| C+ | <80% to 77% |
| C | <77% to 74% |
| C- | <74% to 70% |
| D+ | <70% to 67% |
| D | <67% to 64% |
| D- | <64% to 61% |
| F | <61% to 0% |

## Assignments

* 2 Self-Assessments (@10 points each)
* Reading Responses (5 @ 100 points each).
  + 3-5 pages, tone is academic
  + MLA format
  + Primary source must be cited
* Discussion (5 @ 5 points each)
* Writing Prompts (2 @25 points each)
  + 1-2 pages, tone is casual/reflective
  + MLA Format
  + Primary source must be cited
* Midterm Poetry Packet (TBA)
  + Write 5-7 poems in response to the reading
  + Include artist statements for each piece
* Final Paper (TBA)
  + 8-10 page paper
  + MLA Format
  + This will be a statement/theory of your own literary values; consider how the readings and assignments from this class, in addition to the other work we’ve done together, has informed your place in the genre, your voice as a poet, and your identity as a female writer, mother, and witch.

### Late Assignments

* Unless previously discussed, grades will drop one letter grade each day that it’s late. After 5 days, I will not accept assignments.

# Course Policies

## Students with Disabilities

\*AccessAbility Services engages in an interactive process with each student and reviews requests for accommodations on an individualized, case-by-case basis. Depending on the nature of the functional limitations of the student’s documented disability, he/she may be eligible for accommodations. AAS collaborates with students and their faculty to coordinate approved accommodations and services for qualified students with disabilities. If you have a documented disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact AccessAbility Services (AAS) as soon as possible. You may contact AAS by calling (203) 837-8225 (voice), (203) 837-3235 (TTY) or by e-mailing [aas@wcsu.edu](mailto:aas@wcsu.edu). Detailed information regarding the process to request accommodations is available on the AAS website at: [AccessAbility Services](https://www.wcsu.edu/accessability) ([www.wcsu.edu/accessability)](https://www.wcsu.edu/accessability). If your request for accommodation(s) is approved and you request accommodation letters, an accommodation letter will be emailed to faculty members. (Note: Student request for accommodations must be filed each semester and accommodations are not retroactive.)

## Department of Creative and Professional Writing Policy on Academic Honesty

The Department of Creative and Professional Writing follows the University guidelines regarding academic honesty and issues of plagiarism, which are available in the catalog on the University website at <https://www.wcsu.edu/catalogs/undergraduate/academic-services-procedures/>.

In the specific context of writing, we highlight some particular problems with plagiarism. Plagiarism violations include:

* Submitting material that is not one’s own. This includes the use of any artificial intelligence tool for composing any assignment.
* Using material – words and/or ideas – directly from a source without proper citation and attribution.
* Submitting a project written for one course, past or present, as new material in another course without the explicit permission of the instructor.

To emphasize: the use of artificial intelligence or other text generators for any assignment is prohibited in all Writing courses. Using ChatGPT or other similar tools to "get started" is a violation of this policy.

In accordance with University policy, plagiarism on an assignment may be grounds for failing the course and the filing of an Academic Dishonesty Report, which will escalate the situation to higher administrative decisions. Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty are serious academic offenses and will be treated as such in this course. Please familiarize yourself with the university’s policy on plagiarism in your academic catalogue and/or student handbook. Plagiarism is the use of another writer’s words or ideas without acknowledgment of their source. The penalty for plagiarism will be course failure and will be reported to the appropriate Dean(s) and other university officials.

We encourage students to speak with us openly and honestly regarding any questions surrounding academic honesty and plagiarism.

## The Writing Center

Experienced writers know the best way to become an even stronger writer is to *talk with other writers*. The Writing Center is a great place to do that. The Writing Center offers one-to-one consultations on writing for any class, at any stage, from brainstorming and developing outlines to writing strong sentences and documenting sources. For more information, visit the [Writing Center website](https://wcsu.edu/writingcenter) ([wcsu.edu/writingcenter](https://wcsu.edu/writingcenter)).

Course Schedule

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Wednesday, January 17** | * Begin reading *The Haunting of Hill House* by Shirley Jackson * Discussion #1 due 1/24 * Self-Assessment #1 due 1/24 | *Talking Scared,* [*“A History of Gothic Horror with Professor Roger Luckhurst”*](https://open.spotify.com/episode/7yGnpo3DNbr9f3q4F14I7K?si=5988785ba0be4549) |
| **Wednesday, January 24** | * **Self-Assessment #1 due** * **Discussion #1 due** * Finish reading *The Haunting of Hill House* * Discussion #2 due 1/31 |  |
| **Wednesday, January 31** | * **Discussion #2 due** * Begin reading *The Haunting of Alejandra* by V. Castro * **Reading Response #1 Jackson due 2/7.** | *Talking Scared,* [*“V. Castro and F\*\*ck Your Box”*](https://open.spotify.com/episode/0FmzMJC5TRRkXkEHrLWnl4?si=aa750dd81c594814)  *She Wore Black,* [*“Erotic Horror with V. Castro”*](https://open.spotify.com/episode/0ODMeQPi49hyGlGwBokpyL?si=da51428c647b4af8) |
| **Wednesday, February 7** | * **Reading Response #1 Jackson due** * Finish reading *The Haunting of Alejandra* * Discussion on *La Llorona* due 2/14 | *Myth Monsters*, [“*La Llorona”*](https://open.spotify.com/episode/4WG1paMFDIFFC9fHm0kxYr?si=b812aaf998df448d) *and* [*“Banshees*”](https://open.spotify.com/episode/5vnwAJD3G4YuXN4Moi94ET?si=6c9ceeab641d4159)  [“Shirley Jackson Predicted America’s Fetishization of the Murderess”](https://electricliterature.com/shirley-jackson-predicted-americas-fetishization-of-the-murderess/) by Kailey Tedesco |
| **Wednesday, February 14** | * **La Llorona discussion due** * Reading Response #2 Castro due 2/21 * Read *A Guest in the House* by Emily Carroll |  |
| **Wednesday, February 21** | * **Reading Response #2 Castro due** * **Writing Prompt:** *Talk about how themes of hauntings and queerness are used in this novel in relationship to the protagonist’s characterization*. Due 2/28 * Begin reading *A Haunted History of Invisible Women* |  |
| **Wednesday, February 28** | * **Carroll Writing Prompt due** * Read *Heliophobia* by Saba Syed Razvi * Work on Midterm Poetry Packet (poems + artist statement) | Additional Myth Monsters she might find inspirational:   * [Gorgons](https://open.spotify.com/episode/0kLCLu9EnAh0Uoytioe2uI?si=94b993f38957474e) * [Night Hags](https://open.spotify.com/episode/0fFrpLV7ZBldUzv2iwQ50g?si=beb65177f6614365) * [Selkies](https://open.spotify.com/episode/5h9i4vR9S4ucr2dPAcbKbQ?si=c8b24d09c96f4b46) * [Bloody Mary](https://open.spotify.com/episode/51lTYxOoPnJvzvyHr3Kjv0?si=dd1f7fa8d55441e7) |
| **Wednesday, March 6** | **MIDTERMS**  **Continue to work on Midterm Poetry Packet (poems + artist statement) Due Sunday 3/10.** | **Note: If you want something fun to watch this week, I recommend watching *The Babadookk (2014*). It will pair nicely with your next read and some of the topics and mythology we’ve been discussing.** |
| **Monday, March 11-17** | **SPRING BREAK**   * Midterm grades will be posted on the 18th * Begin reading *Rosemary’s Baby* by Ira Levin * Discussion #1 due 3/20 | *The Evolution of Horror*, [*“Occult, Pt 6. Rosemary’s Baby 1968”*](https://open.spotify.com/episode/5C4e5nSnvmX7WwNAc9Gj79?si=e2668995a5884525)  [“Ira Levin’s *Rosemary’s Baby*: Patriarchy Without Feminism is Hell”](https://www.tor.com/2020/08/11/ira-levins-rosemarys-baby-patriarchy-without-feminism-is-hell/) by Noah Berlatsky |
| **Wednesday, March 20** | * **Discussion #1 due** * Finish reading *Rosemary’s Baby* * Discussion #2 due 3/37 | *Myth Monsters,* [*“*Changelings and Botchlings”](https://open.spotify.com/episode/1bDxSiDui2FduvDvD4D5Sq?si=1e741f519dc74d42) |
| **Wednesday, March 27** | * **Discussion #2 due** * Reading Response #3 Levin due 4/3 * Begin reading *Rebecca* by Daphne Du Maurier | [“Rebecca: From gaslighting to queer history, why Daphne du Maurier’s women remain so relevant today”](https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/women/rebecca-film-netflix-feminist-queer-lily-james-armie-hammer-daphne-du-maurier-b1049659.html) via *The Independent* |
| **Wednesday, April 3** | * **Reading Response #3 Levin due** * Continue reading *Rebecca* by Daphne Du Maurier * Continue reading *A Haunted History of Invisible Women* | *Mysterious Radio: Paranormal, UFO, & Lore Interviews,* [*“A Haunted History of Invisible Women”*](https://open.spotify.com/episode/01WVG98yDjgA7cPTRt54PB?si=c2b48a9c7bcf4ba0) |
| **Wednesday, April 10** | * Finish reading *Rebecca* by Daphne Du Maurier * Continue reading *A Haunted History of Invisible Women* * Reading Response #4 Du Maurier due 4/17 | [“Sex, jealousy, and gender: Daphne du Maurier’s Rebecca 80 years on”](https://www.theguardian.com/books/2018/feb/23/olivia-laing-on-daphne-du-mauriers-rebecca-80-years-on) via *The Guardian* |
| **Wednesday April 17** | * **Reading Response #4 Du Maurier due** * Continue reading *A Haunted History of Invisible Women* * Begin reading *Hag: Forgotten Folktales Retold* by Daisy Johnson | **Note: If you want something fun to watch this week, I recommend watching *A Haunting in Venice* (2023). It will pair nicely with your nonfiction reads and some of the topics and mythology we’ve been discussing.** |
| **Wednesday April 24** | * Continue reading *Hag: Forgotten Folktales Retold* by Daisy Johnson * Continue reading *A Haunted History of Invisible Women* * **Writing Prompt:** Talk about how Johnson used revisionist fairy tales and folklore in a new way. What will you take from this case study? How will you apply it to your own work? Due 5/3 | **Note: If you want something fun to watch this week, I recommend watching *Spring (2014*). It will pair nicely with your current read and some of the topics and mythology we’ve been discussing.** |
| **Wednesday, May 3** | * **Writing Prompt Johnson due** * Finish reading *A Haunted History of Invisible Women* * Self-Assessment due 5/10 * Final Paper due 5/10 |  |
| **Wednesday, May 10** | **FINALS WEEK**   * **Self-Assessment due 5/10** * **Final Paper due 5/10**   Final grades will be posted on the 15th |  |

## Syllabus Modifications

Note: This syllabus is subject to modifications by the instructor.

# 

# Course Requirements

## Technical Requirements

* Students will submit work as a Word doc. Or .rtf file.
* All work will be done in MLA format. For additional information on that, see [Purdue Owl.](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_formatting_and_style_guide.html)
* Mic + webcam for virtual meetings.

# Course Policies and Expectations

## Classroom and Communication Policies

### Email Communication

The CSCU technology policy requires all faculty communication with students to be conducted via the official WCSU email account.

Student and teacher will primarily communicate via email and with teleconference/skype as needed.

* WCSU Email: gallaghers@wcsu.edu
* Personal Email: [wyt3319@gmail.com](mailto:wyt3319@gmail.com)
* Phone: 724-825-9343
* Virtual Meetings as needed via Microsoft Teams

### Electronic Devices & Technology

Provide information on your policy of technology/electronic devices in the classroom. Keep in mind that many of our students have grown up with technology integrated into their education and probably do better with using a computer to take notes.

### Professional and Ethical Behavior

All students are expected to exhibit appropriate behavior in the classroom setting (in person or online) as outlined in this syllabus.  Any student that acts inappropriately or violates academic integrity, may be referred to the Office of Judicial Affairs for violation of the Student Code of Conduct.  Here is a link to the [Student Code of Conduct](https://www.wcsu.edu/judicial-affairs/wp-content/uploads/sites/173/2020/08/2.1-StudentCodeofConduct.pdf) (https://www.wcsu.edu/judicial-affairs/wp-content/uploads/sites/173/2020/08/2.1-StudentCodeofConduct.pdf).

### Religious Holidays

As indicated by WCSU’s Guidelines on Classes Missed Because of University Sponsored Events, any student missing classes or other assigned work due to religious holiday observances shall have the opportunity to make up that work during the semester. It is the student’s responsibility to notify the instructor prior to any observed holiday.

# Student Services and Technical Resources

## Student Services

The [A-Z of Student Services](https://www.wcsu.edu/studenthandbook/a-z-of-student-services/) provides a list of services available to all WCSU students.

## Academic Calendar

Please check [the official WCSU Academic Calendar](https://www.wcsu.edu/calendars/current-academic-calendar/) for important dates, including holidays, withdrawal, and registration dates.

## Assistance for Military and Veterans

Veterans Affairs serves as a leading campus advocate for military and veteran students, working to ensure the needs of these individuals are met through coordinating with multiple university offices and services. Veterans Affairs is located in Old Main, Room 101. For more information on Veterans Affairs, call 203-837-8840 or visit the [Veterans Affairs website](https://www.wcsu.edu/veterans/).

Diversity and Inclusion Statement  
I am committed to creating a course that is inclusive in its design and supports diversity of thoughts, perspectives, and experiences as well as honors your identities (including race, gender, class, sexuality, religion, ability, etc.). To accomplish this:

* If you have a name and/or set of pronouns that differ from those that appear in your official WCSU records, please let me know.
* If you feel like your performance in the class is being impacted by your experiences outside of class, please don’t hesitate to come and talk with me. I want to be a resource for you.
* I welcome feedback that will assist me in improving the usability and experience for all students.

## 

## Emergency Procedures

Detailed information on the essentials to cope with most campus emergencies can be found within the [WCSU Emergency Procedure Guides](https://www.wcsu.edu/emergency-management/emergency-procedure-guide/) (www.wcsu.edu/emergency-management/emergency-procedure-guide/).

## 

## Mental Health Support

College students often experience issues that may interfere with their academic success such as stress, difficulty sleeping, managing expectations/responsibilities, life events, relationship challenges and feelings of anxiety, hopelessness, and depression. At any point in the semester, if you encounter difficulty with the course or feel you could be performing at a higher level, please schedule a time to meet with me. Should you be struggling in multiple classes, or unsure what academic resources are available to you, please outreach to your Advisor. For mental health challenges, please reach out to our Counseling Services for counseling and psychiatric services. Counseling Services can be reached at 203-837-8691.   
**24-Hour Emergency Numbers:**

* Suicide Prevention Line:  988
* Crisis Text Line: Text HOME to 741741
* Crisis Text Line for Students of Color: Text STEVE to 741741
* Trevor Lifeline (LGBTQ): 866-488-7386
* Trans Lifeline: 877-565-8860
* National Domestic Violence Hotline: 800-799-7233 or Text Loveis to 22522
* Sexual Assault Hotline: 888-999-5545

## 

## On Campus Emergency Contact Information

* You may dial 911 from any campus phone or cell phone
* University Police Dispatch – 203-837-9300

## 

## Weather and Emergency Alerts

Information on current weather or emergency alerts can be found in the following locations:

* 203-837-9377
* [WCSU Homepage](http://www.wcsu.edu/) (www.wcsu.edu)
* You are highly encouraged to sign up for the [emergency alert system](http://www.wcsu.edu/ens) (www.wcsu.edu/ens). This will send alerts directly to your phone.

Withdrawal Policy  
Please be aware of the university policy regarding withdrawal. You may withdraw from the course without academic penalty through the official withdrawal deadline. After the deadline it is up to the instructor to decide if a withdrawal request should be granted without penalty. It is strongly recommended that you follow the school deadline. Note that withdrawing from a class may have a negative effect on financial aid, sports involvement, on-campus housing, and time to graduation. The department strongly recommends you consult with an advisor before withdrawing.