ENGL 161 Western Literature
Summer Session II

Professor Russell A. Potter, Ph.D.

Monday-Thursday, 4-6 p.m., Craig-Lee 252

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course offers an intensive introduction to the history of written literature in the English-speaking world. Our focus will be on the capacity of the human imagination to resist the relentless pressures for conformity and normalcy, as manifested in texts from Shakespeare to Poe to Lynda Barry.

REQUIRED BOOKS (Available at Off-Campus Books on Smith St.)

William Shakespeare, Hamlet (Oxford 978-0199535811)
Mary Shelley, Frankenstein: The 1818 Text (Oxford 978-0199537150)
Edgar Allan Poe, Selected Tales (Oxford 978-0199535774)
Joseph Conrad, Heart of Darkness (Oxford 978-0199536016)
Shirley Jackson, We Have Always Lived in the Castle (Penguin 978-0143039976)
Lynda Barry, 100 Demons (Sasquatch ISBN 978-1570614590)

COURSE WORK AND POLICIES

Each week, students must post an informal response to the week’s readings and viewings on our course blog at http://westlit161.blogspot.com/. There also be a formal final essay of 4-6 pages in length, as well as a final examination. The topic of the paper is open to any text or film that we have read or viewed as a class. Active class participation is expected from everyone; the regular blog postings are considered part of your participation grade. Given the intensive nature of summer courses, attendance is especially important; any more than two unexcused absences will have an adverse effect on your final grade. It is also vital that you familiarize yourself with the College’s policies on academic honesty; any paper which contains substantial outside passages without citation or acknowledgement will receive an F.
CLASS SCHEDULE

Week I (July 5-7)  Tuesday: Introduction to class; Wednesday, *Hamlet* Act I; Thursday Acts II and III. All with excerpts from Branagh’s film version of *Hamlet*.


Week V (August 1-4). *We Have Always Lived in the Castle*. Monday: Chapters 1-5. Tuesday: Chapters 6-10. Wednesday: in-class film, *Housekeeping*(first half); Thursday: *Housekeeping* (second half).

Week VI (August 9-11): NO CLASS MONDAY. Tuesday:*100 Demons*. Wednesday: Review for Exam. Thursday: final exam, final paper due.