

Dark Romanticism

(ARH4930)

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FAC 121

Office Hours: Thursdays 1030AM-1200PM

During the late eighteenth century art and culture began to recoil from the philosophy of the Enlightenment and many artists sought a return to aesthetics founded in the sublimity of nature. The horrors of Pan-European war brought about by the French Revolution, and later Napoleon, instigated a movement within art which would examine the darker side of the human condition. Morbidity and a fascination with the uncanny as well as evil, death, superstition, and social exclusion led artists of this time period to explore emotional extremes in their work. The antagonist of the course will be industrialization and its thrusting of the social order into modernity, mechanization, and global war. Our dark romantics, however, will not be stifled as they appropriate the mediums of machine. The course is bookended by yet another emerging global conflict as the specter of World War II looms across Europe and individual feelings of isolation deepen.

The most merciful thing in the world, I think, is the inability of the human mind to correlate all its contents. We live on a placid island of ignorance in the midst of black seas of infinity, and it was not meant that we should voyage far. The sciences, each straining in its own direction, have hitherto harmed us little; but some day the piecing together of dissociated knowledge will open up such terrifying vistas of reality, and of our frightful position therein, that we shall either go mad from the revelation or flee from the light into the peace and safety of a new dark age. —H.P. Lovecraft, 1926

Satan has his companions, fellow-devils, to admire and encourage him; but I am solitary and detested. — Mary Shelley, 1818

Hope not ever to see Heaven. I have come to lead you to the other shore; into eternal darkness; into fire and into ice. — Dante Alighieri, 1472

Assignments

Paper: 30%

Mid Term: 30%

Final: 40%

**Papers will be due by the last class meeting on December 5. You are free to turn your paper in earlier if you so choose. Further details about the paper will be forthcoming. For undergraduates the paper should be no less than 3000 words and for graduate students no less than 5000 words.

UF grading policy for assigning grade points can be read at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

Readings

There is no required text book for this course. All readings will be made available electronically in .pdf form.

Critical Dates

Mid Term October 5, 2017

Paper Due December 5, 2017 (by the beginning of class)

Final Exam December 14, 2017 at 530PM

Classroom Policy

We will be exploring a range of topics and ideas in this course. Come to the material with an open mind and be prepared for class each day. Some of the readings are easy, some are challenging — if you need to re-read a certain piece. The better prepared you are for class and the more you invest the more you will take away. Be kind and courteous to one another.

Cell phones should remain off and away during class. You will be asked to leave if this is not adhered to and counted absent.

Attendance

As an adult it is understood that life happens. As such you will be permitted **TWO** unexcused absences — upon the third unexcused absence your grade will be lowered one full letter grade per absence. Arriving late or leaving early will be regarded as an absence.

Other Vital Course Information and Policies

First: Any change to the syllabus, assignments, or class itself will be delivered to you in writing via email.

Second: Failure to complete course assignments by their due dates will result in automatic failure of the course without exception.

Third: The university provides students with counseling services. This is truly an invaluable resource and they may be found at

University Counseling Services/ Counseling Center
301 Peabody Hall

P.O. Box 114100, University of Florida Gainesville, FL 32611-4100

Phone: 352-392-1575

Web: <http://www.counsel.ufl.edu>

Four: As a student it is asked of you to evaluate each course you take. These evaluation become available in the final weeks of the semester and may be found at: <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/>

Five: If you are in need of accommodation from a disability you will need to register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) and provide them with corresponding documentation. Once registered the Disability Resource will provide you with a letter to give to your instructors.

Six: This course, your behavior, and performance are all bound by the UF Honor Code (<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>). Plagiarism is a very serious violation. Any student violating university policy on plagiarism will, **AT A MINIMUM**, lose one full letter grade to his or her final grade and be reported to the Dean of Students. If you are in doubt, or are unsure, please feel free to ask me.