

WESTERN UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

CL9616B: *The Uncanny and the Fantastic* Tuesdays 9: 30-12: 30

Instructor: Vlad Tumanov (vtumanov@uwo.ca)



Brief Overview

Fantastic fictional worlds are often based on the violation of physical laws while the uncanny involves the combination of the familiar with the deeply disturbing. With the uncanny and the fantastic, story-telling becomes a tool for exploring the hidden recesses of the human mind

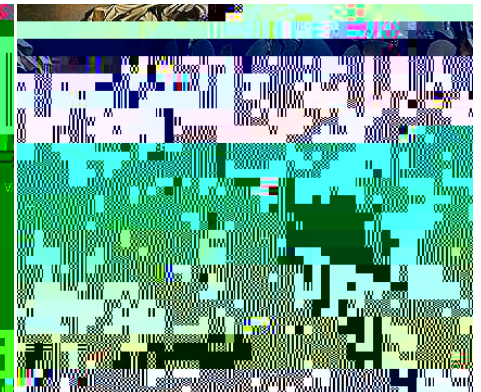
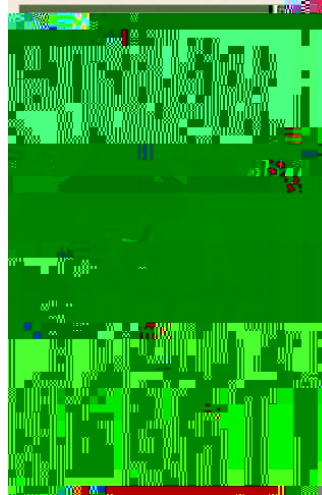
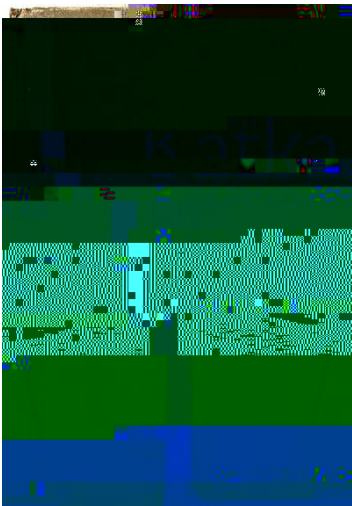
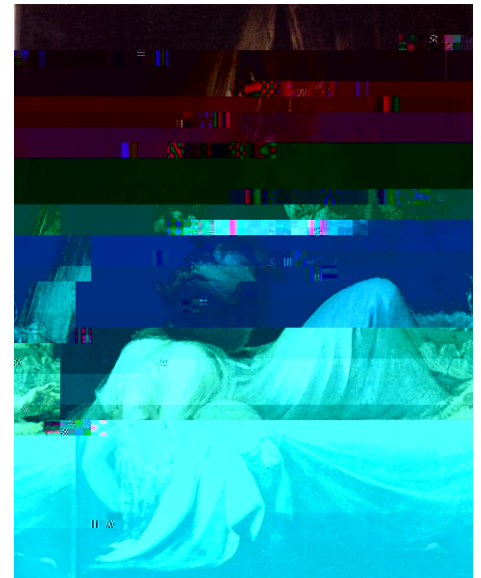
and for facing our greatest fears. In the modern age, authors have delved into such realms in order to work out and model challenges of life in the ordinary world by pushing the human imagination and emotions to the limit. This course will consider a number of works in different languages representing various approaches to the fantastic and the uncanny.

Course Requirements:

Participation - 10%
Oral presentation - 30%
Essay 1 - 30%
Essay 2 - 30%

Texts in Sequence:

Hoffmann, E.T.A. [Another version](#). 1816
Gogol, Nikolai. [Another translation](#). 1835-6.
James, Henry. [Another version](#). 1898.
Kafka, Franz. [Another version](#). 1915.
Bulgakov, Mikhail. [Another version](#). 1925.
Suskind, Patrick. [Perfume](#). 1985.
*Background Theory - Todorov, Tzvetan. [The Fantastic](#).



Approx. schedule: Sept.: Introd., Hoffmann, Gogol; Oct.: James, Kafka Nov.-Dec.: , Bulgakov, Suskind

Erofeev, V.

Haushofer, M.

Garcia-Marquez, G.

Pelevin, V.

Cortazar, J.

Ishiguro, K. 1 of 2 novels: or

Balzac, H.

Murakami, H.

Duve, K. "Im tiefen Schnee ein stilles Heim"

NB: Todorov's [essay](#) is the background theory text for this course (see link above). It can be read by students at their own convenience.