

**Universidad de Puerto Rico
Río Piedras Campus
Faculty of Humanities
Department of English
Undergraduate Program**

English 4049: Special Topics in Caribbean Literature and Culture: Caribbean Gothic Fiction

Academic Year: 2021/2022 Semester I: August-December 2021

Professor: Maritza Cardona (cardona.maritza42@gmail.com)

Credit Hours: 45 hours/3 credits

Office Hours: By email

***This is an online course**

Course Description: A specialized topics course on Caribbean society and literary expression, featuring analysis of literature and other areas such as film, history, music, politics, performance, religion, or popular culture. Topics vary per semester. Course can be taken up to three times when different themes are covered. On-site, hybrid, and online course.

Trigger Warning: Students should be aware that some of the texts and films we will be discussing contain graphic or frightening themes and content. Please use your own discretion about whether this will be a productive course for you. Please remember the information I disseminate in class is not necessarily my opinion. For the most part, I am relaying critical theory and research to you. It is your responsibility, through critical thinking, to decide whether to accept or reject those theories.

Course Objectives:

By the end of the course students will be able to:

- Explore major formal elements of gothic narrative.
- Write intellectual and critical arguments about Caribbean gothic fiction.
- Identify themes and elements presented and gothic horror in literature and film.
- Analyze how the gothic convention fit in a Caribbean framework.
- Develop knowledge of the topic being discussed as well as an understanding of how it relates to the overall study of Caribbean literature.
- Articulate the importance of Caribbean folklore in gothic fiction.
- Read critically and utilize basic research resources relevant to the study of Caribbean gothic horror in literature.

***Readings:**

Condé, Maryse. *I, Tituba, Black Witch of Salem* (1986)
 DeLisser, Herbert, *The White Witch of Rosehall* (1929)
 Díaz, Junot. "Monstro." (2012)
 Hopkinson, Nalo. "Glass Bottle Trick." (2000)
 Mittelholzer, Edgar. *My Bones and My Flute* (1955)
 Prince, Mary. *The History of Mary Prince*. (1831)
 Rhys, Jean. *Wide Sargasso Sea* (1966)

***Screening:**

The Middle Passage Documentary (1997)
Brown Girl Begins (2017)

*The instructor may add/eliminate any selection from the reading or screening list as the semester develops.

Methods of Evaluation:

Active participation in forum.
 Attendance
 Class Participation
 Response papers
 Midterm
 Final paper

Grading:

100 – 90: A
 89 – 80: B
 79 – 70: C
 69 – 60: D
 59 – 0: F

Attendance and Punctuality:

Your attendance will be based on your attendance in synchronized class, participation in forum, and/or handing in work via Moodle. If you do not participate within the allotted time given, you will be counted as absent in that particular class. After 2 absences students will have their final grade lowered by one letter grade. It is your responsibility to catch up after missing classes. *

*Late work will not be accepted, unless you have a medical excuse.

*Do not send any late assignment via email without speaking to the instructor first. If you send your late work via email without speaking to the instructor, it will not be counted.

Midterm and Final Paper:

Guidelines for the midterm and final paper will be given nearing the time of the projects.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is using someone else's words or ideas as your own. It is a real problem and will be taken seriously. Plagiarism can result in a failing grade and even suspension or expulsion. If you plan on citing or referencing, please do so properly and according to the MLA (Modern Language Association) guidelines.

Gender and Sexual Identity Discrimination Policy:

The University of Puerto Rico prohibits discrimination based on sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity in any of its forms, including that of sexual harassment. According to the Institutional Policy Against Sexual Harassment at the University of Puerto Rico, Certification Num. 130, 2014-2015 from the Board of Governors, any student subjected to acts constituting sexual harassment, must turn to the Office of the Student Ombudsperson, the Office of the Dean of Students, and/or the Coordinator of the Office of Compliance with Title IX for an orientation and/or a formal complaint.

Rights of Students with Disabilities:

The University of Puerto Rico complies with all state and federal laws and regulations related to discrimination including "The American Disabilities Act" (ADA) and Law #51 from the Puerto Rico Commonwealth (Estado Libre Asociado de Puerto Rico). Every student has the right to request and receive reasonable accommodation and Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VRS). Those students with special needs that require some type of particular assistance or accommodation shall explicitly communicate it directly to the professor. Students who are receiving VRS services shall communicate that to the professor at the beginning of the semester to facilitate appropriate planning and the necessary equipment according to the Persons with Disabilities Affairs Office (Oficina de servicio a estudiantes con impedimentos [OSEI]), administered by the Dean of Students Office. Any other student requiring assistance or special accommodation shall also communicate directly with the professor. Reasonable accommodations requests or services do not exempt the student from complying and fulfilling academic and course related requirements and responsibilities. Differential evaluation will be provided to students with special needs who have been duly certified by OAPI. (See Circular Núm. 9 de 2002–2003.)

Integridad Académica:

La Universidad de Puerto Rico promueve los más altos estándares de integridad académica y científica. El Artículo 6.2 del Reglamento General de Estudiantes de la UPR (Certificación Núm. 13, 2009-2010, de la Junta de Síndicos) establece que "la deshonestidad académica incluye, pero no se limita a: acciones fraudulentas, la obtención de notas o grados académicos valiéndose de falsas o fraudulentas simulaciones, copiar total o parcialmente la labor académica de otra persona, plagiar total o parcialmente el trabajo de otra persona, copiar total o parcialmente las respuestas de otra persona a las preguntas de un examen, haciendo o consiguiendo que otro tome en su nombre cualquier prueba o examen oral o escrito, así como la ayuda o facilitación para que otra persona incurra en la referida conducta." Cualquiera de estas acciones estará sujeta a sanciones disciplinarias en conformidad con el procedimiento disciplinario establecido en el Reglamento General de Estudiantes de la UPR vigente. Para velar por la integridad y seguridad de los datos de los usuarios, todo curso híbrido y en línea deberá ofrecerse mediante la plataforma institucional de gestión de aprendizaje, la cual utiliza protocolos seguros de conexión y autenticación. El sistema autentica la identidad del usuario utilizando el nombre del usuario y contraseña asignados en su

cuanta institucional. El usuario es responsable de mantener segura, proteger, y no compartir su contraseña con otra persona.