

# VICTORIAN HORROR STORY



## EN 8543: STUDIES IN ENGLISH LITERATURE, 1832-1900

Dr. Shalyn Claggett

Tuesday 6:00-8:50

**Studied texts will include (more to be added):**

Sheridan Le Fanu, *In a Glass Darkly* (ISBN#: 0199537984)

Bram Stoker, *Dracula* (ISBN#: 0393970124)

Oscar Wilde, *The Picture of Dorian Gray* (ISBN#: 0393927547)

Robert Louis Stevenson, *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* (978-1554810246)

Arthur Machen, *The White People and Other Weird Stories* (ISBN# 978-0143105596)

This class aims to examine the development of the horror story within the context of emergent scientific, technological, and psychiatric thought in Victorian Britain. Our study will entail a careful examination of work by Victorian writers who penned narratives about ghosts, insanity, drug addiction, doppelgängers, vampires, and murderers. By examining Victorian literature in its historical context, this course aims at better understanding how these writers exploited and directed the public's macabre fascination with the darkest side of human nature.

**Course Requirements:**

Two exams, a state-of-the-field project, weekly 1-page reflections, class presentation, and a 15-page research essay.