

E 2011 and A 2011 - HU 3900 Literature: Studies in the Gothic Imagination (K. Ljungquist)

With his novel *The Castle of Otranto*, Horace Walpole initiates literary Gothicism, a tradition in English and American literature that stresses mysterious or unexplained happenings, eerie atmosphere, and strange characters. The reach of this seminar will be broad to include fiction by both British and American practitioners in the supernatural genre. Students will read recognized landmarks of Gothic horror (e.g., Bram Stoker's *Dracula*) alongside works by Arthur Conan Doyle, Stephen King, and Patrick McGrath. Students will explore the diverse manifestations of the Gothic— affective, symbolic, and psychological—via discussions, reports, and a series of related writing exercises and formal essays.