Course Outline

School / Portfolio:	Faculty of Education and Arts
Course Title:	GOTHIC GENRES
Course ID:	LITCI3302
Credit Points:	15.00
Prerequisite(s):	(BAFND1002 or equivalent AND Two Literature or Screen Studies Courses)
Co-requisite(s):	(BAFND1002 or equivalent AND Two Literature or Screen Studies Courses)
Exclusion(s):	(BAFND1002 or equivalent AND Two Literature or Screen Studies Courses)
ASCED Code:	091523

Program Level:

AQF Level of Program					
5	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**	**10**
Level					
Introductory					
Intermediate					
Advanced		✔			

Learning Outcomes:

Knowledge:

K1. Define and examine historical and cultural concepts of 'the Gothic' in western culture;

K2. Define and relate Gothic tropes and narrative/cinematographic techniques to the philosophical and aesthetic concepts underpinning the genre;

K3. Review and apply analytical approaches to the Gothic, identifying and analysing gender roles, family and class systems, together with other social or ideological issues (e.g. attitudes to superstition, Catholicism, and the supernatural);

K4. Apply concepts of the Gothic and generic influence to contemporary texts at an advanced level.

Skills:

S1. Define and demonstrate accurately relevant terminology and techniques of literary and film analysis;

S2. Critique Gothic concepts and tropes across a range of literature and film texts;

S3. Appraise Gothic texts from literature and film, in the context of art, architecture and other media, developing interdisciplinary or cultural studies approach to textual analysis;

S4. Research the history and influence of literary and film texts, and of key concepts, issues and historical contexts for Gothic genres;

S5. Review and demonstrate skills in visual analysis and presentation.

Application of knowledge and skills:

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A1. Construct and communicate at an advanced level a clear and coherent argument in verbal, written or visual form, making appropriate use of evidence from Gothic and related texts;

A2. Recognise and assess the social and cultural significance of 'elements' used in Gothic texts, such as character stereotypes, spatial structures, aesthetic modes;

A3. Discuss and apply concepts from the study of the Gothic to twenty-first century intellectual, cultural and social concerns;

A4. Apply historical, political, sociological and psychoanalytical perspectives and theories from film to literature, and vice versa.

Course Content:

This advanced course in cultural studies (Literature and Screen Studies) combines the study of Gothic fiction in English from its 18th century origins, through related genres in Romantic poetry and fiction. Cinematic Gothic is explored from origins in German Expressionism and 1940s Hollywood thrillers to contemporary examples (e.g. Tim Burton's films). The course provides an historical and theoretical foundation for comparative and cross-disciplinary studies of Gothic in historical and contemporary media and art forms.

Topics may include:

- The Gothic as an historical element in Western culture which has informed and shaped many kinds of artistic and cultural expression;
- The emergence of Gothic fiction as a popular genre
- Gothic 'elements' of plot, theme, character types, literary style and address to the reader, interpreted via cultural, political and literary theory/history; its legacy and influence on other aesthetic forms, e.g. film, fashion, music;
- Gothic film as an expression of cultural anxieties, and its relationship to film noir, the paranoid women's film, and other contemporary thriller/horror offshoots of Gothic;
- The interpretation of Gothic in cultural studies as a site of psychological, symbolic and political drama, focusing on the sublime, spatial tropes, and concepts such as the monstrous and hubris.

Values and Graduate Attributes:

Values:

V1. Encourage critical thinking and exploring connections between disciplines, and between different genres, types of texts;

V2. Foster a flexible and creative approach to skills and knowledge already developed within the separate disciplines of film and literature;

V3. Reveal the intellectual interest and value of work that while appealing to 'the popular' engages with significant social, political, or psychological issues.

Graduate Attributes:

Attribute	Brief Description	Focus
Continuous Learning	Students gain an understanding of how literary and film texts are shaped by their wider social and historical contexts, including religion, politics, art, philosophy, and science.	High

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Attribute	Brief Description	Focus
Self Reliance	Students engage with literary texts that require effort to understand 18th century English language, social structures and historical contexts. They are required to develop their own research essay topics (in line with specified criteria, and with approval from their lecturer), undertake independent research, manage their time to complete tasks and meet deadlines. They also have to ensure that they have access to film texts, as screenings are not included in the timetable for the course.	High
Engaged Citizenship	The course constantly explores concepts of the individual's relationship to the family, to social class, and to the state, in the cultural historical approach to the study of literary and film genres. Concepts such as the monstrous, the isolated hero/villain, vulnerable heroine, etc provoke discussion of concepts in contemporary life and media, encouraging critical thinking and questioning of stereotypes.	High
Social Responsibility	Many questions of values and ethics are raised in Gothic texts. E.g. students often sympathise with those in Gothic texts who are presented as monsters (eg the Creature in Frankenstein, vampires), and are encouraged to think critically about how the 'horrors' of humanity can be suppressed, expressed, or otherwise engaged with, at an individual level and in society.	Medium

Learning Task and Assessment:

Learning Outcomes Assessed	Assessment Task	Assessment Type	Weighting
K2 K3 S2 S3 A2	Analysis and comparison of Gothic elements in novel & film.	Short comparative essay	20-30%
K1, K2, K3 S1 A1, A2	Critical reading of set primary texts and critical sources; understanding of key concepts in the study of the Gothic	Test	20-30%
K1, K2, K3 S1, S2, S5 A1, A4	Development of essay question (in line with guidelines provided); appropriate research, construction of analytical argument, drawing on both research and close reading of primary texts. Accurate referencing.	Research Essay	40-50%
K1, K2, K3, K4 S1, S2 A2, A3, A4	Informed contribution to tutorials. Includes written contributions to online forums as well as oral participation.	Participation including written contributions to online forums and oral participation.	10-20%

Adopted Reference Style:

MLA