

# COLQ 2991 Syllabus ~ Spring 2014

**Contact Information:** Wesley Venus, [wvenus@gordonstate.edu](mailto:wvenus@gordonstate.edu), 678-359-5092

**Office Hours and Location:** 1:00-2:00 and 3:15-4:15 M-F, and otherwise by appointment, Academic Building 103H

**Textbooks:** There are no required textbooks for the course, but there will be reading material drawn from online and printed material almost daily. Students should pay careful attention to the Daily Calendar (below) to keep track of required reading. In circumstances where a reading is online, the necessary link will be provided, and in circumstances where a reading is printed, the handout will be provided on the class meeting before it. That being the case, if a student sees that he or she will miss the class meeting before a handout is discussed in class, he or she should see the attendance policy (below).

**Course Description:** A colloquium on selected topics in the humanities emphasizing the development of critical thinking skills.

This particular section of COLQ 2991 will introduce students to the key figures and the history of the Uncanny in American literature and film. The roots of the Uncanny will be traced back to nineteenth-century American Realism, and contemporary literary and artistic antecedents will be examined also. The summary project will require students to write an essay on some aspect of the topic by applying their critical thinking skills to it.

**Placement Policy:** ENGL 1102.

**Academic Dishonesty:** Gordon State College's current Academic Catalog includes detailed descriptions of what actions are academically dishonest and a statement on the purpose of having an academic dishonesty policy in the first place. For the purposes of this class particularly, an act of "Academic Dishonesty" involves passing off someone else's work or ideas as your own. This rule applies to anything turned in for a grade, regardless of how minor or major that assignment is and regardless of the reason for the infraction. Ignorance of the rules for attributing ideas to others correctly is not a valid excuse; students are held accountable for documenting others' ideas correctly, so they should make certain to be present on the days the class discusses documentation or to get the notes from a classmate who was there on that date.

*Collusion* is one form of academic dishonesty that is worth mentioning specifically and is defined as receiving excessive help from another to the point that a work can no longer be the product of a single author. In this class, if a submitted assignment is suspected to be the result of collusion, the teacher reserves the right to refuse credit for that work if the claimed author is unable to demonstrate sole authorship.

We will discuss documentation on Thursday, April 3 when we cover the part of the semester that has most to do with academic honesty in general – the Summary Project. The particulars and principles of Gordon

State College's Academic Dishonesty policy are available in the Catalog on pp. 317-18 and online at <http://www2.gordonstate.edu/catalog/current/view/C191/#academic-dishonesty>.

The Academic Catalog also outlines, among other things, the possible penalties for academic dishonesty and the process by which these penalties can be repealed. This information can also be found in the Catalog on p. 75 and online at <http://www2.gordonstate.edu/catalog/current/view/C84/#academic-dishonesty-policy>.

In most cases of academic dishonesty for this course, a student can expect to receive no better than an F on the assignment in question. In more severe cases the student may receive a 0 for the assignment grade or expulsion from the class.

**Attendance:** Material covered in class may or may not be covered in the textbook, so a good attendance record is important to have. We also have a lot of material to cover over the course of the semester, so we will not be able to go over material again once it has already been covered. If you miss a class meeting, you are encouraged to go over any handouts you might have been given the day you missed and to ask one or more of your classmates for their notes, but your teacher will politely decline to answer any questions about work that has already been covered during class meetings that you missed. There is no attendance penalty otherwise, but it is important to note that your teacher may not have time to answer questions in class about material that has already been covered. If there was a handout given on the day that you missed class, then your teacher will give that to you when you ask for it.

There is also no further penalty for tardiness, except that if a student misses a quiz or part of an exam because he or she was tardy, then that missed time cannot be made up. Likewise, if a student is habitually tardy or especially if a student's late entry into the classroom is regularly disruptive, then tardiness can negatively affect the Participation component of that student's final grade. (See below the description of "Participation" in the Course Assignments section for further details.) Students who find that tardiness will be a problem for them will be encouraged to take a seat along the wall nearest the door so that their late entry will not be a distraction to the rest of the class.

Most class meetings also involve an activity that factors into the Class Participation Portfolio grade, and these activities cannot be made up. Students who discover that tardiness will be a reoccurring problem are encouraged to sit near the door. Further information on Gordon's class attendance policies can be found in the Catalog on p. 67 and online at <http://www.gordonstate.edu/departments/registrar/attendance.asp>.

**Make-up Work:** The Summary Project will be accepted late, but with a five-point penalty for each day they are past due. (This includes holidays and weekends.) To be considered on time, it needs to be printed out and submitted any time before the conclusion of the class meeting during which it is due. Submission after the conclusion of that class meeting makes that assignment one day late, two days late twenty-four hours later, and so on.

For differing reasons, there are certain elements of the course grade that cannot be made up. Class Participation Portfolio and Participation activities are always group-based, so there is no way for these

activities to be made up. Quizzes are standard, so they cannot be made up once they have been taken by the rest of the class.

Exams can be made up, but only after students establish valid excuses for having missed the exam and then make arrangements for making them up. Note: If a student has three or more finals scheduled on the same day, he or she can go to the office of Academic Affairs and fill out a petition to take one or more exams on alternative days.

No assignment should be submitted via email or by any other method of electronic submission. If a student must miss class on the day an assignment is due, and if email is the only means by which the assignment can be submitted on time, then an exception can be made if the student requests and receives permission to do so beforehand. If the student emails the assignment on time, but without receiving permission beforehand, the assignment will be accepted, but with a five-point deduction from the assignment grade.

**Electronic Devices and Other Distractions:** There is no penalty for using electronic devices, talking, or sleeping in class other than the information students miss because they were distracted. In this class students are expected not to distract their teacher or their fellow classmates with these electronic devices and disruptive behaviors, so in cases where a student's use of an electronic device or inattention to class discussion becomes a distraction, the teacher reserves the right to ask that student to stop that behavior privately, after class, or if the behavior continues, publicly, in the middle of class.

**Course Assignments:** The following is a list of the specific assignments for this course section. Each assignment name is accompanied by a short description of its requirements. Where noted, see the corresponding supplementary materials for more detailed information.

**Class Participation Portfolio:** Each class meeting will include some writing activity that factors into the semester's final grade. Some writing activities may require students to make special preparations outside of class, so students should come prepared and be mindful of homework assignments on the Daily Calendar (below). If a student does not fully follow the instructions for a Class Participation Portfolio assignment, then half credit for that assignment will be given. The Class Participation Portfolio accounts for fifteen percent of the semester's final grade.

**Final Exam:** This exam will account for twenty percent of your semester's final grade, and it will cover all topics addressed in class over the course of the entire semester. The particulars of this exam will be discussed on the first and final days of class (Thursday, January 9 and Tuesday, April 29). The final exam will be given on Wednesday, May 7, from 10:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Find this semester's complete final examination schedule at the end of the Spring 2014 academic calendar online at <http://www.gordonstate.edu/pdf/schedule/201402/finalexams.pdf>.

**Midterm Exam:** This exam will account for fifteen percent of your semester's final grade, and will cover all topics addressed in class up until that point. The particulars of this exam will be discussed in class on Thursday, January 9 and Tuesday, February 18, and the exam itself will be taken in class on Thursday, February 20.

**Participation:** This being a survey on a topic with a wide range of artifacts, the expectation is that you will contribute productively to class discussion. It is very important for students to understand that, when it comes to discussing reading and viewing material, there are no right or wrong, “smart” or “dumb” comments; it is only a matter of being whether or not the student is well-informed and thoughtful in his or her comments. Participation accounts for ten percent of your semester’s grade, and that grade will be determined by rating your contributions at the end of the semester on a scale of one to ten. This grade is not linked to attendance, so sitting quietly in your seat all semester will get you a grade of zero for Participation. Speaking in class occasionally improves your Participation grade, but distracting the discussion from its intended purpose or drowning out the ideas of others will drive your participation down to a number as low as zero also.

**Quizzes:** Seven times this semester there will be quizzes given in class, and the best five of those will factor into fifteen percent of your semester’s grade. Class meetings on which quizzes are given are noted in the Course Calendar.

**Summary Project:** Near the end of the semester, students will complete a summary project, which will culminate in the submission of a three- to five-page essay on a topic within the larger subject of the Uncanny. This assignment will account for twenty percent of the semester’s final grade. The particular requirements for this assignment will be discussed on Tuesday, February 25, and the assignment itself is due Thursday, April 24.

**Grade Distribution:** Each assignment will factor into the course grade by the following percentages:

Class Participation Portfolio	20%
Final Exam	20%
Summary Project	20%
Midterm Exam	15%
Quizzes	15%
Participation	10%

**Grading Scale:** All quizzes and both exams will be graded on a ten-point scale. A score of 90 and above will be an A, 80 to 89 will be a B, 70 to 79 a C, 60 to 69 a D, and 59 and lower an F. This will be the same scale your teacher will use when assigning final grades for the semester. The Participation component of your final grade will be determined by how productively you participated in class discussion on a scale of ten. (See the description of “Participation” in the Course Assignments section above for further details.) The overall quiz grade will be determined by taking the average of your top five quiz scores and making that fifteen percent of your final grade, and the overall Response Essay score will be determined by taking the average of the first four essays you turned in and making that forty percent of your grade.

The Summary Project is based upon a standardized rubric that is holistic and has a four-point scale (4 for an A, 3 for a B, 2 for a C, 1 for a D, and 0 for an F). The rubric for the Summary Project will be discussed on the same day the project itself will be discussed (Tuesday, February 25).

**Access Policy:** Students at Gordon State College with mental or physical impairments that may negatively affect their academic performance are encouraged to contact Laura Bowen, Director of the Counseling Center, by telephone at 678-359-5585, or via email at [laurab@gordonstate.edu](mailto:laurab@gordonstate.edu). For further information about the scope and requirements of this service, look in the Academic Catalog on pp. 87-88, or go to the center's web page at <http://www.gordonstate.edu/studentlife/ADA.asp>.

**Teacher/Student Conferences:** Though they are not required as a part of the semester grade, students are encouraged and welcomed to schedule conferences with the teacher regarding their work on particular writing projects or their progress in the course in general. In cases where a student receives a D or an F on his or her essay, a teacher/student conference is strongly recommended. There is no maximum number of conferences allowable. To schedule a conference, a student should first consult his or her schedule and the teacher's hours of availability and then email him with a request for a specific conference time.

**Dates to Remember:**

Late Registration Ends	Friday, January 10
Drop/Add Ends	Friday, January 10 (4:00 p.m.)
Payment Deadline	Friday, January 10 (4:00 p.m.)
Bookstore Charges End	Wednesday, January 22
Midterm	Monday, March 3
Early Registration Period	Monday, March 31 – Friday, April 18
Study Day	Thursday, May 1
Final Exams	Friday, May 2 – Wednesday, May 7

# Daily Calendar

<b>Week 1 (January 8 – January 10): Introductions to Course and Syllabus</b>			
<b>Thurs.</b>	Introductions to Syllabus and the Course ~ Critical Thinking and “The Uncanny”		<b>Homework:</b> For January 14, review materials emailed on January 8.
<b>Notes:</b> Late Registration and Drop/Add end Friday, January 10.			

<b>Week 2 (January 13 – January 17): The Uncanny Valley</b>			
<b>Tues.</b>		Class Participation Portfolio Assignment	
<b>Thurs.</b>	Discuss “The Uncanny Valley”	Class Participation Portfolio Assignment	<b>Homework:</b> For January 21, review notes to prepare for Quiz 1 and read materials emailed on January 16.
<b>Notes:</b> Bookstore Charges end Wednesday, January 22.			

<b>Week 3 (January 20 – January 24): Uncanny and the Grotesque</b>			
<b>Tues.</b>	<b>Quiz 1</b> ~ Discuss the Uncanny vs. the Grotesque and the Horrible	Class Participation Portfolio Assignment	
<b>Thurs.</b>	Discuss The Uncanny vs. the Grotesque and the Horrible (concluded)	Class Participation Portfolio Assignment	<b>Homework:</b> For January 28, review materials emailed on January 23.
<b>Notes:</b>			

<b>Week 4 (January 27 – January 31): Uncanny and the Surreal</b>			
<b>Tues.</b>	Discuss the Uncanny vs. the Surreal	Class Participation Portfolio Assignment	<b>Homework:</b> For January 30, review notes to prepare for Quiz 2.
<b>Thurs.</b>	<b>Quiz 2</b> ~ Discuss the Uncanny vs. the Surreal (concluded)	Class Participation Portfolio Assignment	<b>Homework:</b> For February 4, review materials emailed on January 30.
<b>Notes:</b>			

<b>Week 5 (February 3 – February 7): Underlying Mechanisms</b>			
<b>Tues.</b>		Class Participation Portfolio Assignment	
<b>Thurs.</b>	Discuss Underlying Mechanisms	Class Participation Portfolio Assignment	<b>Homework:</b> For February 11, review notes to prepare for Quiz 3 and read materials emailed on February 6.
<b>Notes:</b>			

<b>Week 6 (February 10 – February 14): American Realism</b>			
<b>Tues.</b>	<b>Quiz 3</b> ~ Discuss American Realism	Class Participation Portfolio Assignment	
<b>Thurs.</b>	Discuss American Realism (concluded)	Class Participation Portfolio Assignment	<b>Homework:</b> For February 18, bring materials for Midterm Exam review.
<b>Notes:</b>			

<b>Week 7 (February 17 – February 21): Review for Exam</b>			
<b>Tues.</b>	Review for Midterm Exam	Class Participation Portfolio Assignment	<b>Homework:</b> For February 20, bring materials necessary to take the Midterm Exam.
<b>Thurs.</b>	<b>Midterm Exam</b>		
<b>Notes:</b>			

<b>Week 8 (February 24 – February 28): The Summary Project</b>			
<b>Tues.</b>	Discuss Summary Project and Summary Project Rubric	Class Participation Portfolio Assignment	<b>Homework:</b> For March 4, review materials emailed on February 25.
<b>Thurs.</b>	<b>Class Does Not Meet</b>		
<b>Notes:</b> The last day to drop a course without an automatic WF is Monday, March 3 (Midterm). The Summary Project is due Thursday, April 24.			

<b>Week 9 (March 3 – March 7): Visual Arts</b>			
<b>Tues.</b>	Discuss the Uncanny in the Visual Arts	Class Participation Portfolio Assignment	<b>Homework:</b> For March 6, review notes to prepare for Quiz 4.
<b>Thurs.</b>	<b>Quiz 4</b> ~ Discuss the Uncanny in the Visual Arts (concluded)	Class Participation Portfolio Assignment	<b>Homework:</b> For March 18, review materials emailed on March 6.
<b>Notes:</b>			

**SPRING BREAK ~ CLASS DOES NOT MEET (MARCH 10 – MARCH 14)**

<b>Week 10 (March 17 – March 21): Popular Culture: Animation</b>			
<b>Tues.</b>	Discuss Uncanny in Popular Culture (Animation)	Class Participation Portfolio Assignment	
<b>Thurs.</b>		Class Participation Portfolio Assignment	<b>Homework:</b> For March 25, review materials emailed on March 20.
<b>Notes:</b>			

<b>Week 11 (March 24 – March 28): Popular Culture: Live-action Film</b>			
<b>Tues.</b>	Discuss the Uncanny in Popular Culture (Live-action Film)	Class Participation Portfolio Assignment	<b>Homework:</b> For March 27, review notes to prepare for Quiz 5.
<b>Thurs.</b>	<b>Quiz 5</b> ~ Discuss the Uncanny in Popular Culture (Live-action Film) (concluded)	Class Participation Portfolio Assignment	<b>Homework:</b> For April 1, review materials emailed on March 27.
<b>Notes:</b> Early Registration begins Monday, March 31.			

<b>Week 12 (March 31 – April 4): Posthumanism</b>			
<b>Tues.</b>		Class Participation Portfolio Assignment	
<b>Thurs.</b>	Discuss Posthumanism	Class Participation Portfolio Assignment	<b>Homework:</b> For April 8, review notes to prepare for Quiz 6.
<b>Notes:</b>			

<b>Week 13 (April 7 – April 11): TBD</b>			
<b>Tues.</b>	<b>Quiz 6</b> ~ Discuss Academic Honesty and Documentation	Class Participation Portfolio Assignment	<b>Homework:</b> For April 10, review materials emailed on April 8.
<b>Thurs.</b>	Discussion (Topic TBD)	Class Participation Portfolio Assignment	<b>Homework:</b> For April 15, review materials emailed on April 10.
<b>Notes:</b> Early Registration ends Friday, April 18.			

<b>Week 14 (April 14 – April 18): TBD</b>			
<b>Tues.</b>		Class Participation Portfolio Assignment	<b>Homework:</b> For April 17, review materials emailed on April 15.
<b>Thurs.</b>	Discussion (Topic TBD)	Class Participation Portfolio Assignment	<b>Homework:</b> For April 22, review notes to prepare for Quiz 7 and review materials emailed on April 17.
<b>Notes:</b>			

<b>Week 15 (April 21 – April 25): TBD</b>			
<b>Tues.</b>	<b>Quiz 7</b> ~ Discussion (Topic TBD)	Class Participation Portfolio Assignment	<b>Homework:</b> For April 24, review materials emailed on April 22.
<b>Thurs.</b>	<b>Summary Project Due</b> ~ Discussion (Topic TBD)	Class Participation Portfolio Assignment	<b>Homework:</b> For April 29, bring materials necessary for Final Exam review.
<b>Notes:</b>			



<b>Week 16 (April 28 – April 30): Review for Final Exam</b>			
<b>Tues.</b>	Review for Final Exam	Class Participation Portfolio Assignment	<b>Homework:</b> For May 7, prepare to take the Final Exam.
<b>Notes:</b> Study Day is Thursday, May 1. The Final Examination Period is from Friday, May 2 to Wednesday, May 7.			

**Final Exam:** Wednesday, May 7, 10:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.