Spring 2019 Course Descriptions

Instructor: Claudia Nelson  
Course: 481  
Title: Senior seminar on Victorian fantasy

Description: This course will examine Victorian fantasy literature (novels, short stories, and poetry) for adults and children. Our emphasis will be on the cultural preoccupations that fantasy was used to articulate, as well as on the ideological and social agendas that fantasy was sometimes used to further. Authors studied will include Bram Stoker, Robert Louis Stevenson, H. G. Wells, Christina Rossetti, Dinah Mulock Craik, John Ruskin, Lewis Carroll, and George MacDonald. The course will be organized around vampires, monsters, ghosts, magic, and wonderlands; within those categories we will contemplate Victorian concerns about sexuality, family relationships, science, imperialism, and more. Students will complete daily in-class writings, produce two close-reading papers and a longer research paper (which may draw upon the former and which will involve a separate prospectus and bibliography assignment), and make an oral presentation.

Proposed Readings: Robert Louis Stevenson, The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde (Broadview 3rd edition, ed. Martin A. Danahay; edition includes supplementary material that is also assigned)  
H. G. Wells, The Island of Dr. Moreau (Penguin, ed. Patrick Parrinder)  
Lewis Carroll, Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland (Norton Critical 3rd edition, ed. Donald J. Gray; edition includes supplementary material that is also assigned)  
Bram Stoker, Dracula (Norton Critical, ed. Nina Auerbach and David J. Skal; edition includes supplementary material that is also assigned)  
Sundry short texts available online