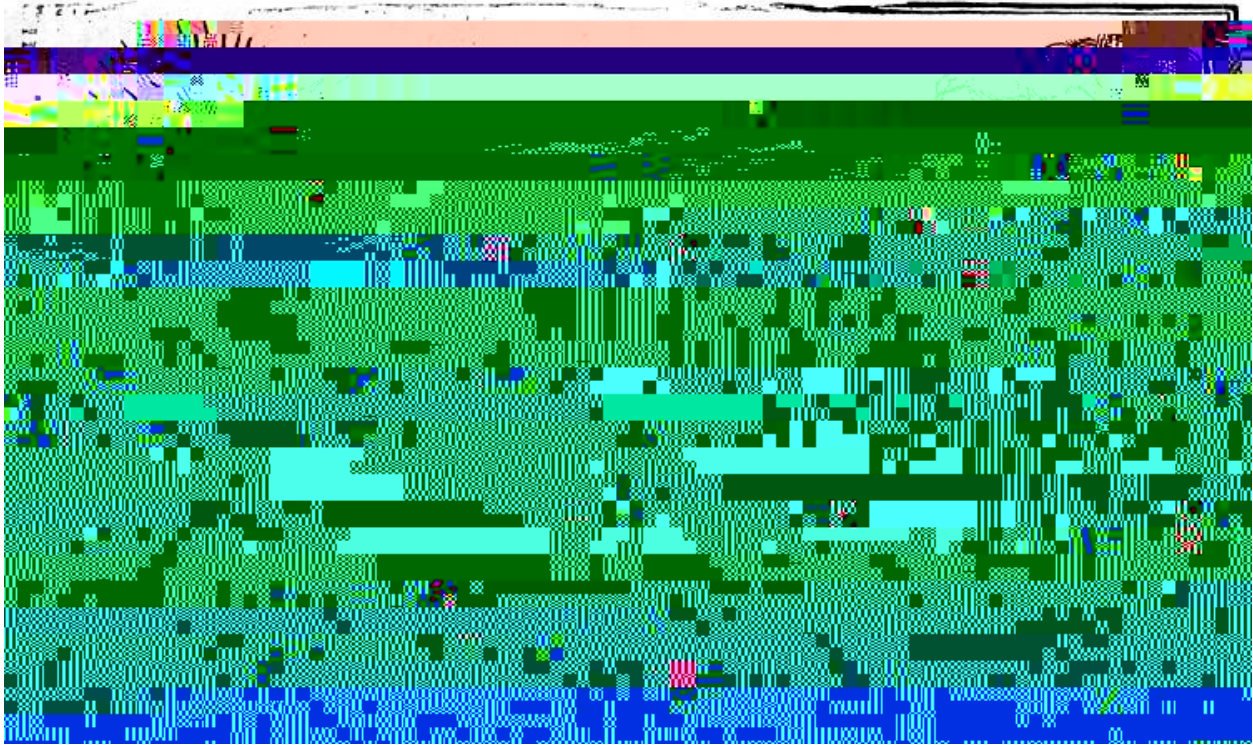


HIST 197: Monsters in Western History
Spring 2021



Mondays and Wednesdays 3:25-4:40 pm
Marissa Crannell-Ash
Office Hours: On Zoom, by appointment.
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“Perhaps it is time to ask the question that always arises when the monster is discussed seriously...Do monsters really exist?”

“Surely they must, for if they do not, how could we?” - Jeffrey Jerome Cohen, “Monster Culture (Seven Theses)”

Why do we create monsters? What human needs and wants do monsters fulfill? Why do monsters continue to frighten and fascinate us, and how did people feel about them in different places and times? What counts as a monster? In this lecture and discussion-based online course we will explore these questions and more as well as examine the roles monsters have played (and continue to play) in identity formation and the shaping of the present day in the western world. We will interrogate moments of cultural anxiety and the monsters they create in their historical contexts and see how monsters can help us understand the

fears and beliefs of people throughout history, especially in regards to race, gender, sexuality, class, and nationality.

Required Texts:

All of these books are available at Rush-Rhees Library in full-text online versions as well as in physical form. You can purchase them at the bookstore and online if you are able, I urge you to support an independent bookstore

expected to complete a certain number of Perusall tasks per Perusall assignment. I will outline this further both in this syllabus and in class.

Office Hours: I will hold office hours on Zoom by appointment. I strongly encourage you to utilize office hours early and often if you have questions, need assistance, want another pair of eyes on your paper, or even if you just want to chat about the readings beyond what we are able to cover in class.

Papers: All papers for this class should be double spaced and written in 12-point font with 1-inch margins in Times New Roman or a close equivalent. Please submit documents in a .doc format for ease of grading. PDFs will not be accepted. The citation style for history is **Chicago or Turabian**. Please familiarize yourself with it and use one of the many helpful style guides on the internet to help you! (This one, for instance.

https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html) The use of other citation styles may result in the loss of points. Make sure to include your name in a header or footer on every page, and always include page numbers. Do not rely solely on spellcheck, as it misses far too many errors—always proofread your papers yourself. Spelling and grammar errors may result in the loss of points. I am available for questions and to discuss papers prior to the due date. I also encourage you to make use of the U of R Writing and Speaking Center for additional assistance. Scheduling is available at <http://writing.rochester.edu/help/index.html>.

Late Work: Late assignments will be assessed on an individual basis, but may be docked **5%** for each calendar day an assignment is late. Contact me if you have any questions.

Content Warning: It is impossible to discuss the history of monsters without encountering topics such as racism, gender-based discrimination, homophobia, class conflict, and other forms of violence. At times, you will be asked to read and/or watch materials that deal frankly with such topics, and some primary documents will use language that would be deemed offensive today. These texts are included because they have value as historical documents and are relevant to our topic of inquiry. I will do my best to highlight these texts ahead of their due date. If you have particular concerns about specific readings or assignments, please reach out to me for discussion.

Students with Disabilities: Students of all backgrounds and abilities are welcome in this class. If you experience any barriers to full participation in this course due to the impact of disability, please contact the Office of Disability Resources at disability@rochester.edu, (585) 276-5075, and <https://www.rochester.edu/c7o> me for discussion.

should instead demonstrate your engagement with the works assigned. Compare and contrast

Distractions: As this is a completely online class, I recognize that the siren call of the internet and other distractions will be hard for some of you to resist. I urge you to do what you can to stay focused on class during class time. If you are like me and struggle to stay on task, I would be happy to recommend some time management tools like StayFocusd (<http://www.stayfocusd.com/>) and Habitica (<https://habitica.com/>), both of which I use myself and find quite helpful.

< Read:

- **DEM 1 pp. 27-36.**
- J. Halb
DEM 1 pp. 75-88.
- *The Penguin Book of the Undead. Blackboard pp. xiii-xvi.*

Feb 17: Vampires

< Due:

- Perusall Comments 2

< Read:

- Bram Stoker, *Dracula*, selections. **DEM 2 pp. 215-222.**
- *The Vampire: A New History. Blackboard pp. 23-40. (P)*

Feb 22: Vampires, cont.

< Read:

- *The Vampire: A New History. Blackboard pp. 147-168.*

< Watch:

- Storied. (About 7 minutes)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qc93hC9WAfo&list=PL_lsQEz7yLOpq278N-4I72cTXIRE1kVUN&index=12

Feb 24: Zombies

< Due:

- Perusall Comments 3

< Read:

- *The Penguin Book of the Undead. Blackboard pp. 17-25. (P)*
- *The Penguin Book of the Undead. Blackboard pp. 122-126. (P)*
- *The Penguin Book of the Undead. Blackboard pp. 129-136. (P)*

< Watch:

➤ ugr

Storied. (About 6 minutes)

< Read:



(P)

Lycanthropy Reader. Blackboard pp. 62-68.



pp. 77-90 (P)

Lycanthropy Reader. Blackboard



Lycanthropy Reader. Blackboard pp. 106-114. (P)

- **WOOD pp. 78-91.**
- Ambrose Paré, *On Monsters and Marvels.*
Blackboard pp. 107-136. (P)

< Watch:

- minutes) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tTpbZVxz3SI>

March 24: The Unicorn and Other Fabulous Beasts

< Due:

- Response Paper 5

< Read:

- **WOOD pp. 11-38.**

- Marco Polo, *Travels*, selections. *Fabulous Beasts.* **Blackboard pp. 186-191.**

March 29: The Unicorn and Other Fabulous Beasts, cont.

< Due:

- Response Paper 6

< Read:

- **WOOD pp. 38-48.**

- **WOOD pp. 93-106.**

- Aristotle, *Historia Animalium*, selections. *Fabulous Beasts.* **Blackboard pp. 47-49.**

- *Fabulous Beasts.* **Blackboard pp. 169-172.**

- *Fabulous Beasts.* **Blackboard pp. 131-134.**

March 31: The Unicorn and Other Fabulous Beasts, cont. 2

< Due:

- Perusall Comments 7

< Read:

- **WOOD pp. 106-126.**

- Aelian, *On Animals*, selections. *Fabulous Beasts*. **Blackboard pp. 74-79. (P)**
- Ibn Battuta, *Travels*, selections. *Fabulous Beasts*. **Blackboard pp. 192-194. (P)**
- Edward Topsell, *The Historie of Foure-Footed Beastes*, selections. *Fabulous Beasts*. **Blackboard pp. 273-279. (P)**

April 5: Dragons

- < Due:
 - Response Paper 7
- < Read:
 - - **WOOD pp. 127-151.**
 - *Fabulous Beasts*. **Blackboard pp. 35-36.**
 - *Beowulf*, selections. **DEM 2 pp. 73, 82-85,**

April 7: Dragons, cont.

- < Due:
 - **Comparison Paper due via Blackboard by 11:59 pm, EDT.**
- < Read:
 - - **WOOD pp. 151-167.**
 - Solinus, *Collection of Remarkable Facts*, selections. *Fabulous Beasts*. **Blackboard pp. 81-84.**
 - *Fabulous Beasts*. **Blackboard pp. 160-163.**
- < Watch:
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VsZVKCQHdlo>

April 12: Cryptids

- < Due:
 - Perusall Comments 8
- < Read:
 - *Imaginary Animals*. **Blackboard pp. 79-85.**
(P)



Fabulous Beasts. Blackboard pp. 147-149.

(P)



DEM 2 pp. 345-352.

< Watch:



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wW6eKLLViK8>



minutes) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JBVn4SzvImo>

Human Monsters

April 14: Human Monsters- Introduction

< Due:

➤ Response Paper 8

< Read:



On Monsters. Blackboard pp. 5-11.



DEM 1 pp. 67-74.



- *On Monsters. Blackboard pp. 141-162. (P)*
- *Marvelous Protestantism. Blackboard pp. 62-87. (P)*
- John Spencer, *A Discourse Concerning Prodigies: Wherein the Vanity of Presages by Them is Reprehended, and Their True and Proper Ends Are Indicated*, selections. **DEM 2 159-162.**
- Ambrose Paré, *On Monsters and Marvels*, selections. **Blackboard pp. 3-23, 67-73. (P)**

April 26: “Freaks” and Human Variation

< Due:

- Perusall Comments 10

< Read:



DEM 1 pp. 89-98.



Blackboard pp. 3-

The Marvelous Hairy Girls.

May 3: Cannibals and Giants

< Read:

- *Beowulf*, selections. **DEM 2 pp. 74-82.**
- *Gothic Images of Race in Nineteenth Century Britain*. **Blackboard pp. 61-96.**

May 5: Serial Killers

< Due:

- **Research Paper due via Blackboard by 11:59 pm, EDT.**

< Read:

- Killers: Murder Can Be Work. *Pretend We're Dead*. **Blackboard pp. 13-15, 21-31, 47-51.**