

Course description

Descriptif du cours

Department : English

Instructor (s): Hager Miladi

Academic year: 2021-2022

Level: Third year

Course title: British novel

Course description

This course aims to introduce students to Robert Louis Stevenson's major study of the hypocrisy of the Victorian age, *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* (1886). A novella about double identity, its many facets also reflect the concerns of its times: the relationship between religion and science, the fear of degeneration and the exploration of psychology. The focus is led on Stevenson's choice of the Gothic tradition, a genre symptomatic of the fears and anxieties of the late Victorian period. Equally important in our close reading of the novel are aspects related to language, characterization, setting and point of view.

Course outline

1. Introduction: the late Victorian period/ The Urban gothic/ Robert Louis Stevenson's life/
2. Analysis of the title and of Chapter 1: setting/narrative point of view/character of Utterson
3. Chapters 2: the character of Hyde
4. Chapters 3 and 4: the character of Jekyll/ dramatic importance of the murder scene/setting: Soho: London's other face; Hyde's rooms
5. Chapters 5 and 6: Setting: Jekyll's laboratory versus Utterson's drawing room/The development of the character of Jekyll/character of Lanyon
6. Chapters 7 and 8: the gothic tradition
7. Chapter 9: the revelation
8. Chapter 10: Jekyll's confession
9. Chapter 10: a climatic ending
10. Duality in *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*
11. Roundabout session

Method of evaluation:

The exam consists in a text analysis. Students are required to use literary concepts as well as to show their knowledge of the novel and of the themes and aspects dealt with in class. A correct use of language is the prerequisite to pass the exam.

References: (the following books can be downloaded from <http://gen.lib.rus.ec>)

Stephen Arata - *Fictions of Loss in the Victorian Fin de Siècle*-- (1996)

Harold Bloom - *Robert Louis Stevenson* (Bloom's Modern Critical Views) (2005)

Linda Dryden - *The Modern Gothic and Literary Doubles*-- Stevenson, Wilde and Wells (2003)

Julia Reid - *Robert Louis Stevenson, Science, and the Fin de Siècle* (Palgrave Studies in Nineteenth-Century Writing and Culture) (2006)

R. C. Terry (eds.) - *Robert Louis Stevenson--Interviews and Recollections*-Palgrave Macmillan UK (1996)

Online resources

Nightmare: Birth of Horror - Jekyll and Hyde (BBC 1996) available at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b04aSxzD4Xo>

RLS website available at : <http://robert-louis-stevenson.org/>

For some useful passage explanations, check <https://henneman.uk/stevenson/>

Read the following article: <https://www.bl.uk/romantics-and-victorians/articles/duality-in-robert-louis-stevensons-strange-case-of-dr-jekyll-and-mr-hyde#>