



COURSE DESCRIPTION

## 2016 Winter Session (2016-2017 Academic Year)

ENGL 364A-003: Making Monsters - 19th Century Style- Gisèle M. Baxter

### **Nineteenth-Century Studies**

#### **Term 2**

**MWF, 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

As Oscar Wilde wrote, "Art, like Nature, has her monsters." But what is a monster? What does its creation have to say about fear and desire in the world it haunts? This course will examine the literary representation of monsters, both hideous and beautiful, as well as of their creators and victims, throughout the long 19th century. We will address contextual issues of gender and sexuality; class, race, and culture; realism and the supernatural; urban and rural settings, all in a century known for its developments in science and technology, its social upheaval, and its veneer of respectability, yet with monsters lurking in closets and under beds. The tentative core text list includes *Frankenstein* and *Dracula*, as well as *Jane Eyre*, *Carmilla*, *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, and *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, as well as various examples of short fiction. We will also consider the evolution of academic critical responses (as well as popular reaction) to these texts and the 19th-century Gothic in general, and the way in which such texts have shaped the way we think about and visualize the 19th century. Evaluation will be based on two short essays, a term paper, and a final examination, all focused on literary textual analysis, as well as contribution to in-class and Connect-based discussion. Please check my blog at <http://blogs.ubc.ca/drgmbaxter/> for a fuller description of the course, its texts, and its requirements.