

Course Syllabus

Summer 2024

Humanities 25: monsters, Section: 8837

Online Asynchronous- No required class meetings.



SRJC Land Acknowledgement

I acknowledge that Santa Rosa Junior College is on the traditional territories and homelands of the Pomo and Miwok peoples.

Instructor: Nasrin Naraghi

E-Mail: nnaraghi@santarosa.edu. Preferably via Canvas Inbox.

Office Hours: Tuesdays: 4:30- 5:00 pm

Join URL: <https://santarosa-edu.zoom.us/j/89538269882>

Thursdays: 10:00- 10:30 am

Join URL: <https://santarosa-edu.zoom.us/j/82876613592>

through TechConnect Zoom or by appointment

Instructor Homepage: <https://profiles.santarosa.edu/nasrin-naraghi>

Course Outline:

https://portal.santarosa.edu/SRWeb/SR_CourseOutlines.aspx?mode=1&CVID=52489&Semester=20243

Welcome to Hum 25: Monsters!

**I am looking forward to an exciting semester teaching and learning from you!
You can call me Ms. Naraghi or Professor Naraghi.**

Course Description:

This course examines monsters, real and imagined, to understand their cultural function and purpose. This includes monsters from specific cultures or time periods, such as the Japanese Yokai to the menagerie of creatures in *Monsters, Inc.* as well as real-life monsters, from serial killers to genocidal fascist dictators. Representations of monsters in folklore, ancient texts, sacred manuscripts, literature, movies, graphic novels and video games are examined. Through this multidisciplinary course, monsters are intertwined with questions about racial purity, authority, power, violence, genetic manipulation, transspecies' relationships and civilizational demise to act as harbingers and citizens of our imminent future.

Student Learning Outcomes:

At the conclusion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Describe monsters and other creatures from a variety of cultures and historical time periods through primary and secondary materials.
2. Explain connections - physical, scientific, spiritual, political - between monsters and human beings.
3. Analyze the significance of monsters to human history and our understanding of what it means to be human.

Objectives:

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Identify the characteristics of specific monsters and creatures and their significance and purpose for the culture and historical time in which they originated and appeared.
2. Explain the significance of monsters from various cultures and historical time periods in relation to other monsters from their own, as well as other, cultures and historical periods.
3. Analyze multiple ways in which monsters are intertwined with tradition as much as they are with science, medicine, politics, technology, and human emotions most especially desire.

Required Text:

- [Monsters](#) by Hoffman, Andrew. Bedford/St. Martin's; Second edition (August 30, 2019) Available for purchase or rent.
- Reserve Library- One copy of the textbook will be available at Reserve Library in Santa Rosa and Petaluma. You need to have your SRJC ID# to reserve the book. You can read the book at the library or copy the reading assignment for your own reading.

- Films- Films have become an important part of cultural studies, especially for our course about Monsters. I have requested a few films from SRJC streaming website, Swank, which will be free for you. However, if the request is not granted, you will be responsible to pay for the subscription fees at other streaming websites if you are not already subscribed in order to watch the films.

Required Materials:

- This is an online course. You need to have access to a computer, desktop, laptop, or tablet. If you don't currently have a computer, the college has a laptop loan program. Learn more here: [SRJC Laptop Loan](#)
- Note-taking materials of your choice (notebook & pen/pencil. or laptop/tablet computer)
- Binder and/or folders for taking notes from your readings or my lectures. Save all your works to the cloud so you can access them from anywhere and keep all materials from this course until your course grade is posted).

Recommended Preparation:

Eligibility for ENGL 1A or equivalent

Grading:

Please pay attention to the grade points assigned to each assignment. To pass this course you need to get a grade of "C" or 700 points in this class.

Lecture Assignments	65 pts.
Discussions	280 pts.
Quiz	140 pts.
Midterm	180 pts.
Final Paper	200 pts.
TOTAL POINTS:	865 pts.

A= 1000-900 points or 90%	Excellent College work
B= 899-800 points or 80-89%	Good college work
C= 799-700 points or 70-79%	Adequate college work
D= 699-600 points or 60-69%	Poor college work, incomplete or missing
F= 599- 0 or 59% or lower	Work isn't college work, incomplete, or missing

YOUR FINAL GRADE will be based on POINTS EARNED. This includes an assessment of your general contributions to the class. If you are concerned about your progress, please contact me particularly if you are having personal or academic difficulty.

Canvas-- We use Canvas as our course learning management system. In addition to the textbook, there will be other readings which will be posted from time to time in the weekly modules. All the assignments: weekly lecture assignments, discussions, quizzes, and exams will be posted through Canvas. You must sign into Canvas using your SRJC student ID# to have access to our course Canvas. For questions about Canvas, you can click on the question mark in the Global Navigation Panel and choose Canvas Support Hotline (Students) at: 844-303-0344. They are available to help you 24/7/ 365 days a year.

Reading assignments:



The readings are marked in the course schedule and are posted in the weekly modules on Canvas. Reading is an important aspect of learning in humanities. You need to refer to the course schedule section of this course syllabus before each class in addition to checking the Canvas module. You are expected to have read the assigned reading IN ADVANCE of my lecture and take notes while viewing the lecture.

Additional note on reading: The reading assignments are not exceptionally long and can be read in a short span of time. However, you are expected to read the materials twice or three times and ponder on what you have read, be a critical reader, ask questions as you read. You may need to do extra research to explain the contents of your reading. Please be an active learner and ask questions from me during our zoom office hours or via Canvas inbox or SRJC email. As the instructor for this course, my goal is to teach you and help you navigate your way through the material and help you succeed in this course. However, teaching is not limited to your instructor. As students in this course, you can teach one another and learn from each other. I highly recommend that you communicate with other students in this class and exchange phone numbers and emails with at least two students and help one another in understanding the topics and motivate each other.

PowerPoint Presentations: There will be weekly PowerPoint Presentations on the topic that we study along with some links. They will be published on Canvas on Friday for next week's instruction.

Recorded Lectures: There will be weekly recorded lectures based on the reading and PowerPoint Presentations which will be published on Monday on Canvas covering the topic of our study.

Attendance Policy: This is an online course. Attendance in an online course means submitting all the assignments and participating in all discussion posts. Excessive absences according to SRJC college catalog are absences that exceed 10% of the total class time and for online asynchronous classes that meet once a week it means missing 2 assignments in a row without contacting the instructor. Please contact me via Canvas inbox if you are experiencing a personal situation and need additional time to complete the assignment.

Class Activities: The following are the gradable assignments for this class, all due on Canvas. All readings, PowerPoint Presentations, and assignments will be posted on Friday for the following week's instruction.

Introduction Discussion assignment: This is a good way for you to introduce yourself to each other by making short-written responses to my prompts. I will post a very brief bio video of myself, my method of teaching this course and what is expected of you to succeed in this course.

Lecture Assignments: Responses to questions based on the reading assignments and lectures.

Discussions: Discussion questions are based on the reading assignments, lectures, PowerPoint Presentations, and films to encourage active learning and a sense of community in our online class, students will respond to discussion questions as well as reading and commenting on their colleagues' responses.

Quizzes: Quizzes will be based on the reading material, textbook reading on Canvas and my PowerPoint Presentations. The questions will be short-answer and multiple-choice questions.

Midterm: Midterm exam is to evaluate students' knowledge on the selected topics that we have studied at the midpoint of the course. Guidelines and rubrics to follow.

Final Paper: The final semester paper is a reflective and analytical paper based on the important themes and topics which we have studied in this course. This paper should be 3- 4 pages long. You will be provided with more specific information on this later in the course. The paper is due on the last day of class on July 27th on Canvas. You will receive the guidelines and instructions on this ahead of the assignment.

Late assignments will be accepted without any late penalty during the grace period which is 3 days after the due date on Canvas.

You should contact me directly with your reason and ask for additional time to complete the assignment, If you are experiencing a situation which prevents you from turning in your assignment on Canvas. This additional time will be only for a few days after the due date on Canvas.

Extra credit assignments: you can earn 5 points in extra credit by meeting the instructor during the office hours and asking questions about the topics, assignments, and your grade.

Netiquettes:

- Be kind and respectful to others.
- Use full sentences in your discussions & video posts.
- Avoid jargon and acronyms.
- Use language that supports others.

Avoid Plagiarism and other academic dishonesty: There are many good reasons *not* to plagiarize ranging from matters of public fairness to private dignity. Know what plagiarism is and don't do it. Plagiarism is not limited to turning in someone else's work or copying from a neighbor's exam. Any time you submit work that is not your own *as if it were* your own (even when you re-word or paraphrase the work of others without clear citation) you are engaging in plagiarism. It is okay to refer to, depend on, or directly quote the work of others. All scholars borrow ideas and writings from their peers and predecessors. The key is to give credit where credit is due and to produce original work. Where appropriate, cite your sources carefully (again, even when paraphrasing). And make sure you are not simply presenting the views of others but evaluating those views in a critical manner. If you are caught plagiarizing, there will be serious consequences. Depending on the severity of the instance: 1) you will at the very least receive no credit for the assignment or exam in question; 2) you may be ejected from the class for a specified period; 3) you may receive a failing grade in the class; 4) you may be reported to the college administration for further disciplinary action; 5) and most importantly, you will suffer damage to your credibility and self-respect. For school policy regarding student integrity, plagiarism, and related matters, please refer to SRJC policy.

Other issues of importance:

Accommodation for Learning Needs: Students with disabilities who believe they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact Disability Resources <https://drd.santarosa.edu/> as soon as possible to better ensure such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion. Also, if you have any social, cultural, economic, or other issues that you think I should be aware of, please don't hesitate to contact me in the beginning of the semester. Diverse examples include 1) difficulty with language; 2) difficulties with group discussion; 3) economic hardship; 4) health related difficulties; 5) difficulties related to a transition from military service; 6) adjustment to recent incarceration/release from detention facility, etc. All such information will be held in the strictest confidence, and you can be assured that I will only employ such information in serving your needs as a student.

Statement of Inclusivity: People of all races, religions, sexual orientations, and gender presentations will be present and are welcome in the classroom. We are all (students and me) expected to treat each other respectfully. Please let us know if we aren't using your preferred pronouns (he/him/his, she/her/hers etc.) or your preferred name. Please let me know if something makes you uncomfortable and we can try to find a solution.

[Student Health Services](#)

Physical Health

Phone: (707) 527- 4445

Fax: (707) 524- 1858

Location: Race Building, Room 417

Hours: M/T/Th 8:00- 5:00, W 8:00- 7:00

Mental Health

Phone: (707) 524-1595

Fax: (707) 521-7893

Location: Plover Hall, Room 559

MTWTh 8:00- 5:00

A Message from Students Health Services

PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH

Should you experience any physical or mental health issues, know that all of us at SRJC care about your well-being. SRJC's Student Health Services (SHS) has nurse practitioners and mental health therapists available. Confidential sessions are provided via secure Zoom or in-person. Sessions are free for SRJC students taking credit or non-credit classes, and some providers can converse with you in Spanish if you prefer. SHS also has on-site covid rapid testing and vaccinations available also at no cost. To start the process for any type of physical or mental

health appointment contact Student Health at 707 527-4445 or email studenthealthservices@santarosa.edu. More information about all that Student Health Services provides is available at: <https://shs.santarosa.edu/>

Academic Help:

For information about campus tutoring services and developing your college study skills, visit <http://college-skills.santarosa.edu/>

For information about the Writing Center, visit: <https://english.santarosa.edu/writing-center>

Credit Hours and Workload: This is a 3-unit course. A unit at SRJC is defined as “One lecture hour and two hours of outside work throughout the semester ordinarily serve as a basis for one unit of credit.” See page 18 of the College Catalog for more information. The expectation for this course is that for every hour of class time, you study 2 hours outside the classroom. Your reading speed will affect the actual time it takes you to complete readings. Excellent students (“A” students) often spend more time on coursework and studying.

If you are taking:	You should be in class/lab or reading/studying:	You limit employment & other activities to:
12-15 units (or 4-5 courses)	36-45 hours per week	8-15 hours per week
9-12 units (or 3-4 courses)	27-36 hours per week	15-20 hours per week
3-9 units (or 1-3 courses)	9-27 hours per week	20-40 hours per week

Your continued enrollment in this course indicates that you have read this syllabus carefully in its entirety and that you will ask the instructor about any part of the syllabus that confuses you before the end of week 3 of the semester.

Office Hours: Students are encouraged to attend zoom office hours to get extra help or clarification on any class topic or assignment. During Final Exam week, I do not hold regular office hours. Please plan accordingly. If you are seeking assistance with an exam, paper, or other assignments, it is recommended that you visit me or email me well before the assignment is due. Last minute pleas for assistance are not encouraged. Also, it is extremely helpful if you come to office hours prepared. This means having specific questions related to the difficulties or interests you are having in the class material. This means you should have carefully considered the precise reason for your visit so that we can make the most of our time. You may email me at any time via Canvas Inbox or at my SRJC email. I check my emails regularly. If you do not receive a response from me and if it is a matter of importance, email again, and/or see me during zoom office hours. Please allow adequate time for email processing and avoid emailing me at the last minute before a class or important due date.

Course Schedule

Please refer to the course schedule for the schedule of this course. The weekly schedule is organized by the week date for each class meeting and the topic which we study. Each week on the course schedule corresponds to a module on Canvas. For instance, week 1 of the course schedule is module #1 on Canvas. Each week starts with reading activities: text reading on Canvas or the assigned novels and PowerPoint Presentation of the topic following my lecture. The readings should be completed before each class meeting.

I reserve the right to modify this schedule or change readings if necessary, however, due dates & exam dates will not change. Changes will be posted on Canvas.

TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE: (Any changes to schedule or assignments will be communicated in advance via e-mail):

Date	Study Topic	Week's Work
Introduction		

<p>Week 1 6/17- 6/21</p>	<p>Introduction & welcome & course overview</p>	<p>Introduction, Course Syllabus, & Course Overview</p> <p><u>Read: Introduction For Students, pp. 1-12 from the textbook</u></p> <p><u>Read the entire course syllabus very closely.</u></p> <p>Study the 2 PowerPoint Presentations</p> <p>Watch my video lecture.</p> <p>Assignments:</p> <p>Due on Canvas: Discussion assignment--Introduce Yourself</p> <p>Lecture Assignment: Introduction & Course Overview & Introduction For Students & the 2 links on Canvas Summary Page, Module 1.</p> <p><u>Read for week #2</u></p> <p>Chapter 1- Why Do We Create Monsters? pp. 14-33 &</p> <p>Why Vampires Never Die? Pp. 35-43.</p>
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<p>Week 2 6/24-6/28</p>	<p>Why Do We Create Monsters?</p>	<p>PowerPoint Presentation on Why Do We Create Monsters?</p> <p>Video lecture</p> <p>Watch the film: Dawn of The Dead</p> <p>Assignment:</p> <p>Discussion</p> <p><u>Read for week #3</u></p> <p>Chapter 1- Monsters and the Moral Imagination, pp. 59- 64.</p> <p>Chapter 2- pp. 66-69 & Monstrous Beginnings, pp. 103- 113</p> <p>&</p> <p>Get Ready for the Dawn of Superintelligence, Pp. 114- 117</p>
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<p>Week 3 7/1- 7/5</p>	<p>Why Do We Create Monsters?</p> <p>Monstrous Beginnings The Daw of Superintelligence</p>	<p>PowerPoint Presentation on Monstrous Beginnings & The Dawn of Superintelligence</p> <p>Video lecture</p> <p>Assignments:</p> <p>Quiz</p> <p><u>Read for week #4</u></p> <p>Chapter 3- How Does Gender Affect the Monster? Pp. 126-134 & Reclaiming the Mermaid Pp. 139-146.</p>
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<p>Week 4 7/8- 7/12</p>	<p>The Monster as Woman</p> <p>La Llorona Myth Mermaid Cat People</p>	<p>PowerPoint Presentation on La Llorona, Mermaid, and The Cat People</p> <p>Video lecture</p> <p>Watch the film: Mermaid Down</p> <p>Assignment:</p> <p>Midterm</p> <p><u>Read for Week #5</u></p> <p>Chapter 4, Pp. 182-188 & Pp. 190-195 & 196-204.</p>
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<p>Week 5 7/15- 7/19</p>	<p>What is the Power of The Monster?</p> <p>Fear of the Monster is Really a Kind of Desire</p> <p>Dracula</p>	<p>PowerPoint Presentation- Fear of the Monster is Really a Desire</p> <p>Video lecture</p> <p>Watch the film: Ex- Machina</p> <p>Assignment:</p> <p>Discussion</p> <p><u>Read for Week #6</u></p> <p>Guidelines and rubrics for the final paper</p>
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<p>Week 6 7/22- 7/26</p>	<p>Is the Monster Within Us?</p> <p>Nation and Race</p>	<p>PowerPoint Presentation on Nation and Race</p> <p>Video lecture</p> <p>Assignment:</p> <p>Final Paper</p>
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Thank you for taking this class. Wish you all a very happy rest of the summer!!!

