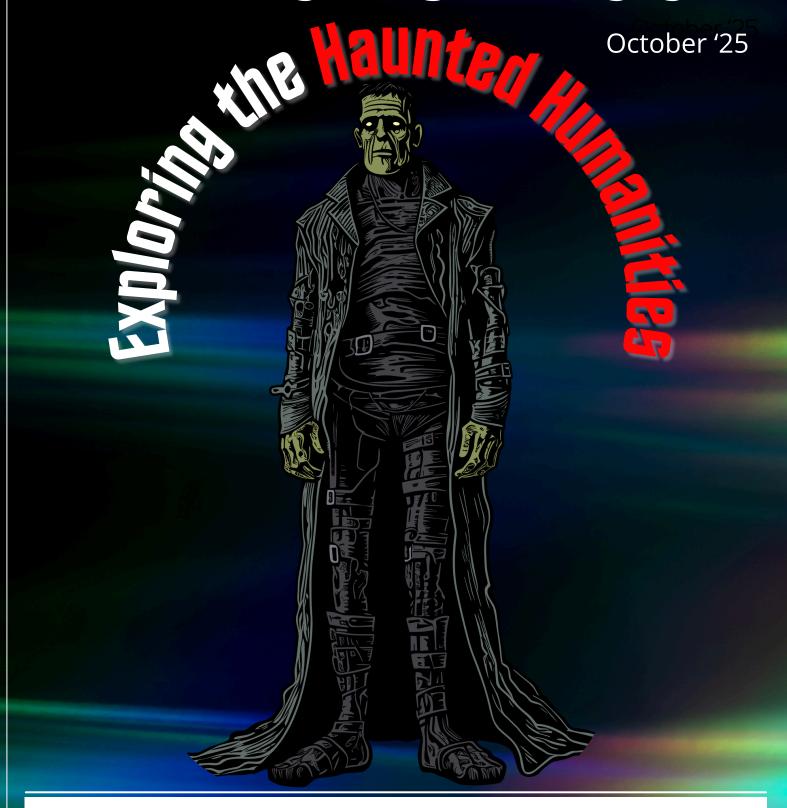
THE ENGLISH AGGIE



Netflix Adaptations of Novels • UPREP Info • Student Features • Course Descriptions • Senior Seminar Info • 19th Century American Novel Digital Exhibition • Dr. Sperrazza's New Book

Netflix Adaptations of Classic Novels

Frankenstein

Releasing Nov 7, 2025 👸 Guillermo del Toro





Tudum by Netflix

Synopsis

Explore the dark reimagining of Mary Shelley's classic tale following Victor Frankenstein's obsessive quest to conquer death and the tragic consequences when his creation seeks revenge for being abandoned.

Original story

Frankenstein; or, The Modern Prometheus (1818) by Mary Shelley

Wednesday



Now streaming season 2 Tim Burton





Tudum by Netflix

Synopsis

Wednesday Addams attends Nevermore Academy where she hones her psychic abilities, investigates a murder spree, and navigates the complexities of friendship while staying true to her delightfully dark nature.

Original story

Characters from "The Addams Family" were created by American cartoonist, Charles Addams, and were originally published in *The New Yorker* starting in 1983 as cartoons.

The Fall of the House of Usher



Released in 2023 Mike Flanagan





Tudum by Netflix

Synopsis

Explore the modern retelling of Edgar Allan Poe's stories where ruthless pharmaceutical mogul Roderick Usher watches his corrupt family empire crumble as his heirs die in mysterious, horrific ways.

Original story

The Fall of the House of Usher (1839) by American author and poet, Edgar Allan

The Midnight Club





Released in 2022 Mike Flanagan



Synopsis

Explore eight terminally ill young adults living in a hospice meet at midnight to share scary stories, making a pact that whoever dies first will send the others a sign from beyond.

Original story

The Midnight Club (1994) by Christopher Pike.

The Irregulars



Released 2021



Tom Bidwell



IMDB

Synopsis

Explore a Victorian-era supernatural thriller where a group of troubled street teens in London are manipulated into solving crimes for the sinister Dr. Watson while uncovering dark powers and conspiracies.

Original story

Inspired by the "Baker Street Irregulars," a group of street children who help Sherlock Holmes in the original stories of Sherlock Holmes by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

The Haunting of Bly Manor



Released in 2020 Mike Flanagan





IMDB

Synopsis

A young au pair arrives at the haunting Bly Manor to care for two orphaned children, only to discover the estate harbors dark secrets and restless spirits trapped by tragic love and loss.

Original story

Inspired by The Turn of the Screw (1898) by Henry James.

The Undergraduate Professional and Research Experience Program (UPREP)

Transcription and Collation for the New Variorum Shakespeare

Dr. Dorothy Todd

Description:

<u>The New Variorum Shakespeare (NVS)</u>, which began with the publication of *Romeo and Juliet* in 1871, is now published in open-access in digital form.

Student involvement:

The student researcher will work on different aspects of the digital editing process, including locating relevant historical editions of Shakespeare plays for individual NVS volumes, performing optical character recognition (OCR) and transcribing editions for collation, and maintaining documentation for training and workflow.

Required skills & interests:

The student researcher should have an interest in either Shakespeare or Digital Humanities —preferably both. Previous experience with XML and/or GitHub is desired, but not required. Project-specific training will be provided.

TR TEXAS ARM

Writing Programs: Understanding Structures, Resources, and Training in the Teaching of Writing

Dr. Sara DiCaglio

Description:

This UPREP will focus on the teaching of writing and the Writing Program Administration. The larger project this UPREP supports is a holistic examination of trends in the teaching of writing nationally, including aspects such as assignment structures, course focuses, and teacher training.

Student involvement:

This UPREP will focus on the teaching of writing and the Writing Program Administration. The larger project this UPREP supports is a holistic examination of trends in the teaching of writing nationally, including aspects such as assignment structures, course focuses, and teacher training.

Required skills & interests:

Students interested in pedagogy, composition, technical writing, or interested in going to a PhD program in English in which teaching core writing courses will be a part of their training will likely benefit most from this UPREP.

Outreach and Event Planning for the New Variorum Shakespeare Project

Dr. Katayoun Torabi

AR TEXAS ARM

Description:

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Student involvement:

The student researcher will work on different aspects of the digital editing process, including locating relevant historical editions of Shakespeare plays for individual NVS volumes, performing optical character recognition (OCR) and transcribing editions for collation, and maintaining documentation for training and workflow.

Required skills & interests:

The student researcher should have an interest in either Shakespeare or Digital Humanities —preferably both. Previous experience with XML and/or GitHub is desired, but not required. Project-specific training will be provided.

XML Encoding and Correcting Ingestion Errors for the New Variorum Shakespeare

Dr. Kris May

Description:

The New Variorum Shakespeare (NVS), which began with the publication of Romeo and Juliet in 1871, is now published in open-access in digital form.

Student involvement:

The student researcher will XML-encode physical volumes for online publication, locate and correct XML errors that appear in the digital files of Shakespeare's plays, assist in maintaining documentation for training and workflow, and help editors and the NVS backend developer think through the process of transforming physical editions into digital texts.

Required skills & interests:

The student researcher should have an interest in either Shakespeare or Digital Humanities —preferably both. Previous experience with XML and/or GitHub is desired, but not required. Project-specific training will be provided.

LEARN MORE ABOUT UPREPS & HOW TO APPLY



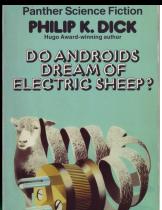
Course Descriptions for Spring '26

ENGL 434 Advanced Studies in Science Fiction and Fantasy: The Visionary Worlds of Philip K. Dick



NEW

Dr. Apostolos Vasilakis



Course description:

Students will analyze and explore the work of one of the most important science fiction writers, Philip K. Dick, and his evolution as a writer by examining his prose to understand what constitutes reality in a technologically and artificially-driven world.

Proposed readings:

Blade Runner, The Man in the High Castle, Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?

ENGL 345 Writer's Studies: Weird, Uncanny, **Disquieting Fiction**



Dr. Jason Harris



Course description:

Students will read and write prose that engages with the development of the genre of weird and uncanny fiction. Your written work will be workshopped in peer reviews and then culminate in a portfolio of three revised stories.

Proposed readings:

American Supernatural Tales, The Strange Library, The Weird

ENGL 220: Graphic Novel



Dr. Matt McKinney



Course description:

Students will read graphic novels and manga as a medium, and their literary and historical evolution across the 20th and 21st centuries. Students will analyze a number of graphic narratives in terms of their structure, and their focus on themes of alienation, heroism, violence, and

Proposed readings:

Fullmetal Alchemist, Vagabond, Saga, Watchmen, Understanding comics

ENGL/FILM 366: Horror Studies





Course description:

Students will explore the development of the genre (Gothic literary tradition to modern film), notable authors (writers and filmmakers); theory, criticism, and scholarship; and intertextuality with other genres and representative texts. Students will examine historical events, social movements, and cultural practices to locate how shared constructions of fear, anxiety, and dread inform and perpetuate horror storytelling.

Proposed readings:

Poltergeist, Alien, Freaks, Peeping Tom, Scream

ENGL 324: Science Fiction and Film



Dr. James Francis



Course description:

This course will focus on graphic novels and manga as a medium, and their literary and historical evolution across the 20th and 21st centuries. We will analyze a number of graphic narratives in terms of their structure, and their focus on themes of alienation, heroism, violence, and culture.

Proposed readings:

A.I., Artificial Intelligence, The Time Machine, Her, Black Mirror

SCAN TO READ DETAILED COURSE DESCRIPTIONS



tinyurl.com/springcourses26

English Aggie Alum & Student Features

ADRIAN WOLINSKI, CLASS OF 2026

Howdy! I'm Adrian Wolinski, a senior majoring in English and biology. Going into freshman year, I was a biology major but knew from the beginning that I wanted to major in English too. These were two of my favorite subjects in school, so I had to pursue them further. In fact, the core of my educational philosophy is to maintain a balance between the humanities and the sciences. It is extremely rewarding being able to take classes from two very different majors, and although there is little overlap in terms of degree requirements, I have come to enjoy it tremendously. This semester I will be applying to grad school in English.



Image credit: Adrian Wolinski

adrianwolinski@tamu.edu

N

My favorite novel is *The Hobbit*. I first read it in middle school and have read it countless times since then.

THERESA MARQUEZ, CLASS OF 2026

Howdy, Y'all. My name is Theresa Marquez, and I am a proud First-Generation Aggie from Edinburg, TX, majoring in English. I have always had a passion for writing, whether it's for a school assignment or writing my thoughts for fun, I truly enjoy the power words can have. My goal is to one day be a professor at a Tier I university and hopefully help students find their passion through writing and literature. As a first generation student graduating is a milestone and very personal. Graduating isn't just for me to show my hard work and dedication all these years, it will break a generational cycle and mark a turning point in my family. This semester I am looking forward to celebrating these final moments as an undergraduate student, and making lasting memories.



Image credit: Theresa Marquez

theresa@tamu.edu

There was one poem I was introduced to my sophomore year, and it has stayed with me. The poem is called *The Road Not Taken* by Robert Frost.

ABIGAIL HOLFORD, 3+2 PROGRAM & CLASS OF 2027

Howdy! I'm Abigail, and I am in my fourth year at Texas A&M, which is the last year of my BA and the first year of my MA program. When I started at TAMU I was majoring in Mathematics, but I changed my major to English after three semesters. However, because of this, I was able to get my minor in Mathematics. I'm still narrowing down my specific research interest for my MA, but my interests are in both 20th century American drama and the treatment of the "maternal" role, as well as the role and character of the villain within children's literature. After I complete my master's, I hope to either work in editorial in children's publishing, or teach literature, potentially getting my PhD!



Image credit: Abigail Holford

abigailholford@tamu.edu

My favorite piece of literature is *The Glass Menagerie* by Tennessee Williams, but a very close second is Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*! I collect a copy of *Pride and Prejudice* in every country or major city that I

CARLOS REYES, TECHNICAL WRITER, CLASS OF 2019

I transferred from the mechanical engineering department to the english department in 2018 and graduated in 2019. In 2019, I interned at Q2 in the summer of 2019. As a student, I worked as a documentation specialist. Currently, I'm a technical writer. Technical writing is where I could easily find a job so I became a technical writer. Technical documentation is important because that's how people understand how to use a product or service. Once you use products or services that are more than a few buttons, a documentation site is crucial to a business. I love the moment of clarity people feel when they read great technical documentation.



Image credit: Carlos Reyes

carlosemail44@gmail.com

My favorite book is *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* by Junot Díaz. Dr. Eide recommended it to me in 2019. Finally, I felt seen by a book.

SCAN TO READ COMPLETE INTERVIEWS



tinyurl.com/octinterviews

19th Century American Novel Digital Exhibits & Dr. Sperrazza's New Book

19th Century American Novel Digital Exhibits

Introduction

This semester, Dr. Avery Blankenship encouraged her students in her 19th Century American Novel course (ENGL 375) to explore the major themes in Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The House of the Seven Gables* by creating digital exhibits to understand classic American literature through multi-media digital formats.

Sadie Garcia



View Sadie's digital exhibit →

Utilizing the popular platform of Discord, the following exhibit explores the complex theme of generational cycles within *The House of the Seven Gables*, analyzing the theme's presence in the ancestral ties to Hawthorne and the darkened familial curse within the novel. The exhibit suggests the novel to convey sentiments of hope, encouraging one to break from such cycles that infiltrate and dominate one's life.

Hannah Kalinkewicz



<u>View Hannah's digital</u> exhibit →

This exhibit, Antagonists in the Margins: Holgrave's Influence in *The House of the Seven Gables*, highlights the influence of secondary villains in Gothic literature. The argument is represented through modern popular culture references along with an in-depth analysis of the nuanced opposition in Hawthorne's

Jessica Pardede



<u>View Jessica's digital</u> exhibit →

My exhibit on *The House of the Seven Gables* by Nathaniel Hawthorne showcases the theme of domesticity in the novel. The exhibit explores how domesticity is presented through Hawthorne's female characters, Phoebe and Hepzibah Pyncheon, and how Nathaniel Hawthorne's own view of domesticity is displayed in the novel.

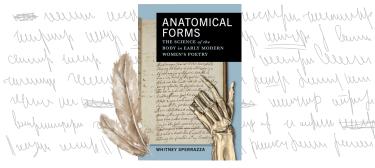
Noelyn Lafferty

The House of the Seven Gables: House Tour of Ancestral Sin

 $\frac{\text{View Noelyn's digital}}{\text{exhibit}} \rightarrow$

This exhibit includes a house tour of the real mansion in Salem,
Massachusetts to show how the physical home displays this figurative concept of the novel. Take a walk through the home of the cursed Pyncheon family and see how the rooms reflect the characters of the novel forced to reside with the generational sin of their evil ancestor.

Anatomical Forms: The Science of the Body in Early Modern Women's Poetry



Could you please introduce yourself, what classes you typically teach, and your research interests to the English Aggie community?

My name is Whitney Sperrazza and I'm an Assistant Professor of English here at TAMU. My research focuses on early British literature and the history of science, so my classes will always involve interdisciplinary thinking anchored by specific historical contexts. What can poetry teach us about science? How and why does figurative language (metaphor, allegory, idiom) help us better understand complex ideas? How does embodied specificity (time, place, lived experience) shape our interactions with knowledge across disciplines?

What is your book about and what inspired you to write it?

When most people are asked, "who was the first woman scientist," their answer will be "Marie Curie" (certainly, an excellent example). But starting with Curie situates the origin of women's scientific work in the 19th century and, most importantly, it defines "science" within quite a narrow set of precepts (work done in a lab, published in scientific journals, etc.). In graduate school and my early years as a faculty member, I was reading women's writing from the 16th and 17th centuries that was deeply engaged with developing scientific ideas. It just didn't look like we expected science to look because these women were writing poetry.

My book is about establishing a longer, deeper history of women's scientific work. And, perhaps even more importantly, it's about interrogating our expectations for certain kinds of disciplinary thinking. In the poetry of these early modern women writers, we find them intervening in and challenging contemporary theories on corpse preservation, dissection, obstetrics and gynecology, and skin theory. So, what emerges is this complex history of poetic and scientific tools working together to produce new knowledge in 16th and 17th century England, with women's voices at the center of that activity.

Anatomical Forms can be purchased on the <u>University of Pennsylvania Press website</u> and borrowed from Evans by the end of the year.

ENGL 481: Senior Seminar Course

Descriptions

The Rhetoric of Space Travel

Dr. Joshua DiCaglio



Course description

This course examines the rhetoric around space in order to reopen political, personal, and social questions as they manifested in the 1960s. We will consider some of the cultural and rhetorical artifacts that informed early space rhetoric, leading us to examine current rhetoric around NASA, the trip to mars, and space photographs.

Proposed readings & films:

Martian, Hidden Figures, A True Story, Dream of Scipio, Apollo Space program coverage

Visualizing Knowledge Dr. Laura Mandell BIG DATA Course description:

This course examines the explosion of "big data" and explore techniques for understanding it. We will discern the most important components of data literacy as well as techniques for visualizing data. Assignments will include responses to the readings and a final paper that involves creating or analyzing a knowledge visualization graph.

Proposed readings:

Timnit Gebru, Sofiya Noble, Donna Haraway, Lauren Klein, Catherine D'Ignazio, and Johanna Drucker

Archives: Print to Digital Dr. Amy Earhart

Course description:

This course traces the collection and use of archives, print and digital, in literary scholarship. The class will feature a hands-on project in digital archival development with work in the Rudder Archives at Cushing. Students interested in publishing and advanced literary studies are highly encouraged to register.

Proposed readings:

<u>Dorothy Berry, Lauren Klein, Siobhan Senier, Kimberly Christen, Ashley Farmer</u>

Landscape, Nation, Empire

Dr. Susan Egenolf



Course description:

This course will pair works written by British, Irish and anglophone authors in the 18th and 19th centuries to those produced in the 20th and 21st centuries. The central topic of this course is the representation of British colonial and postcolonial "natural" worlds, including people, in poetry, the novel, travel writing and in material culture (paintings, gardens, ceramics, etc.), as well as the development of an aesthetics for representing landscape.

Proposed readings:

The Voyage of the Beagle, Remembering Babylon, Gulliver's Travels, Shooting an Elephant

SCAN TO READ DETAILED COURSE DESCRIPTIONS



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This publication is brought to you by the Texas A&M Department of English.

Editor & designer: Maia Kumar '26



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