Syllabus for LIT 2932
The Uncanny: Writing and Weirdness (Summer 2008)

"Inside languages, there is a terror, soft, discreet, or glaring; that is our subject."
(Jacques Derrida)

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION
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CLASS HOURS AND LOCATION
MW 12:40-4:10 p.m.
Building 2, Room 2062 (Founders Hall)

OFFICE HOURS AND LOCATION
MW 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Building 8, Room 2606 (Inside the English Department Offices.)

Email me with any questions that require brief responses. To discuss coursework in more detail, visit during office hours or schedule a conference with me.

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course explores the uncanny across a wide range of texts and contexts. The uncanny describes not so much a literary theme or movement as an aesthetic quality (of literature, for example) that provokes eerie, strange, creepy, unsettling, haunting, or disturbing feelings. Class discussions will focus on the ways in which assigned texts engage a number of elements—odd familiarities, haunted architecture, doppelgangers, coincidences, prosthetics, animism, identity disturbances, death, laughter, etc—that provoke such uncanny sensations:

The uncanny, by its nature, disrupts intellectual certainty. Thus, the topic offers extensive possibilities for exploration. As a general-education writing course, this course asks students to engage the uncanny through close readings and critical analysis, intensive reflection on uncanny literature and experiences, and development of organized, researched, and reasoned oral and written arguments.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENT
You will need regular internet access for the mandatory Blackboard component of this course. If you do not have such access, you may use a computer in the library or computer lab. Once online, use your UNF n-number to access Blackboard from the UNF website. The first time you access Blackboard this term, go to “personal information” and update your email address to one that you check regularly.

ASSIGNMENTS
You will earn your overall course grade through the quality of your work on the following assignments:

1. Miscellaneous (Attendance, Participation, Quizzes, In-Class Writing, Exercises) – 20% of final grade
(For each absence over one, subtract twenty-five percentage points from the overall score in this category.)
2. Reading Responses, Informal Writing, Discussion Forums – 20% of final grade
3. Presentations – 10% of final grade
4. Midterm Essay (3-4 pages) – 20% of final grade
5. Final Essay (6-8 pages) – 30% of final grade

GRADING SCALE
Keep in mind that effort does not determine your grade in this class. Making consistent effort should help you do well on assignments, but only the strength of your work determines your grade. Work earning the highest grades will demonstrate superior quality of analytical thought as well as superior writing craft.

You earn your course grade through the percentage score of all graded work, weighted as described in the section above. Final grades adhere to the following scale. I do not add “extra” points or fractions of points to “bump up” your numerical score at the end of the term, so make sure you take advantage of opportunities to raise your grade throughout the term.

A = 91.5% or better     A- = 89.5%-91.4     B+ = 86.5-89.4%     B = 81.5-86.4%     B- = 79.5-81.4%
C+ = 76.5-79.4     C = 69.5-76.4%     D = 59.5-66.4%     F= 59.4% or lower

This syllabus outlines requirements for a UNF General Education course, LIT 2932. Please read this document carefully, since your continued enrollment in this (or any) course constitutes your binding agreement to the terms of its syllabus.
GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS
You must pass this course with a grade of C or better to earn general education credit. To earn a C or better, you must attend regularly, and you must turn in all major writing assignments, in the minimum length or greater.

SCHEDULE
The schedule for the course may change throughout the term to accommodate class needs. Thus, for homework, reading, and assignment schedules, you should always check the most current version of the course schedule, maintained on our course site on Blackboard. Remember, you are responsible for all assignments on the class schedule even if I fail to remind you of them in class!

TEXTS AND MATERIALS
Required Materials
- NO Required Texts to Purchase—Texts will be made available online
- Full-function word-processing software, such as that available in Microsoft Office or WordPerfect Office—NOT Microsoft Works, Wordpad, or Notepad! (If you need word-processing software, you may download a free office suite at OpenOffice.org.)

Recommended Materials
- A writing handbook for reference
- A binder to organize class readings, assignments, and notes

Optional Materials
- Freud, Sigmund. The Uncanny. (Translated by David McLintock). ISBN 0142437476. (You will have access to a different, online translation of Freud’s essay, but you may find McLintock’s translation more readable.)

Instructor's Online Reading Selections
Since you will need to analyze source texts extensively, we will rely upon varied, typically short, readings. Access most of these through our Blackboard site. Readings will most likely draw from the lists below, but may include other texts:

THEORETICAL TEXTS
Freud, Sigmund. The Uncanny.
Kimball, A. Samuel. Excerpt from Infanticidal Logic.
Mori, Masahiro. “Valley of the Uncanny.”
Mulvey, Laura. “Alfred Hitchcock’s Psycho.” Excerpt from Death 24x a Second.
Royle, Nicholas. Excerpt from The Uncanny.
Stern, Leslie. Excerpt from “I Think, Sebastian, Therefore... I Somersault: Film and the Uncanny.”
Vidler, Anthony. “Unhomely Houses.” (From The Architectural Uncanny).

LITERARY TEXTS
Beckett, Samuel. The Unnameable.
Gilman, Charlotte Perkins. The Yellow Wallpaper.
Grimm, Jacob and Wilhelm. "Hansel and Gretel"
Glück, Louise. "Gretel in Darkness."
Hoffmann, E.T.A. “The Sandman.”
Kafka, Franz. “A Hunger Artist.”
Melville, Herman. "I and My Chimney."

FILMIC TEXTS
Our "uncanny" texts will include two or more films, most likely from the following list: Alejandro Amenábar’s The Others (2001), Darren Aronofsky's Pi (1998), Michael Bay’s The Island (2005), Stephen Frears’ Dirty Pretty Things (2002), Alfred Hitchcock's Psycho (1960), Jocelyn Moorhouse’s Proof (1991) Christopher Nolan’s Memento (2000), Roman Polanski’s Repulsion (1965), George Romero’s Night of the Living Dead (1968), or Ridley Scott’s Bladerunner (1982).

CLASSROOM GUIDELINES AND POLICIES
Attendance
Attend all classes!

During summer term, we will meet only twelve times, so each class covers more than a week’s worth (the equivalent of about four classes) of fall or spring term classes. Keep in mind that each member of a literature discussion class contributes a unique perspective that we lose if he/she fails to prepare or to attend. In addition, class provides opportunities to participate in on-going class discussions about assigned readings and writing projects; to consult with the instructor on writing; to work with peers in writing/revision workshops; and to practice key grammatical, mechanical, and stylistic skills. In many instances, too, class discussions cover material not available in our texts.
Even the best-intentioned student, however, may need to miss a class. Thus, you may take one absence without penalty EXCEPT that you will lose credit for whatever in-class work you miss. (Be careful! This loss could count against your grade significantly.) Please note the following points:

- **The reason for your absence does NOT determine whether it is “Excused” or “Unexcused”—Simply put, your first absence (for any reason) is Excused, while any subsequent absences (for any reasons) are Unexcused and will reduce the “Miscellaneous” component of your grade accordingly.
- For each absence over your first, you will lose twenty-five percentage points of the “Miscellaneous” portion of your course grade (an equivalent of approximately ½ a letter grade from your overall course grade).
- Since absence does not excuse you from assignment deadlines, you must submit all work by its deadline.
- You must attend class in order to receive full credit on quizzes, exercises, or in-class writing.
- Attendance requires not only your physical presence, but also your full engagement with and attention to this class. If you spend your class time preparing for other classes, text-messaging, listening to music, sleeping, etc., you are not truly “present” and accordingly, you will lose attendance points.
- **If you miss more than three classes during the term, you will fail the entire course—regardless of your course average on completed work. (After all, you will have missed ¼ of the classes!)**

### Assigned Work Deadlines

Late work earns you an F on the assignment! Thus, make sure you submit assigned work on the specified due date even if you are absent and even if you are taking your allowed absence. At the instructor’s discretion, you may receive up to half credit for late work submitted within one week of the original due date. If you completely fail to submit an assignment, you earn a zero averaged into your overall grade. IMPORTANT: Note that a NON-submission produces a much greater impact on your grade than does a POOR or a LATE submission.

**Make sure you get credit for your work (even if incomplete). Turn in each assignment by its due date!**

### Special Dispensations

Students with disabilities who seek reasonable accommodations in the classroom or other aspects of performing their coursework must first register with the UNF Disability Resource Center (DRC) located in Building 10, Room 1201. DRC staff members work with students to obtain required documentation of disability and to identify appropriate accommodations as required by applicable disability laws including the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). After receiving all necessary documentation, the DRC staff determines whether a student qualifies for services with the DRC and if so, the accommodations the student will be provided. DRC staff then prepares a letter for the student to provide faculty advising them of approved accommodations. For further information, contact the DRC by phone (904) 620-2769, email (kwebb@unf.edu), or visit the DRC website (http://www.unf.edu/dept/disabled-services).

### Arriving Late or Leaving Early

Of course, you should come to class on time. If you do arrive late, please come in as quietly as possible and begin work quickly. *(After class, YOU must make sure that I change my attendance record to reflect that you attended after all.)*

If you are significantly late (10 minutes or more) for any class meeting, you earn an absence. In such a case, however, you may enter the class and receive credit for any in-class work that you complete during the remaining class time. If you repeatedly come to class late—even if you arrive only a couple of minutes late each time—your habitual tardiness may count as an absence. Similarly, if you leave class early, you risk earning an absence for the day.

**Arrive to class on time, work attentively during the entire session, and stay for the whole class.**

### Controversial or “Offensive” Texts

Uncanny texts, by definition, disturb some readers. Thus, you may NOT substitute an alternative text for a required one that you find “offensive.” Please do not ask to do so. If you do not wish to read or discuss texts or ideas that may run counter to your beliefs, you should withdraw from this class immediately.

This paragraph functions as a “ghost” in this syllabus. Congratulations on your careful reading. Please do not share your discovery of this paragraph with others in the class. Instead, proceed to the “syllabus questions” section (on the last page of this document). When you complete the assignment described there (LIT 2932 Reading Quiz #1), write lightly (in a ghostly hand) as your response to #5 on the quiz, “I found something hidden,” and you will earn an extra quiz point.

### Classroom Courtesy and Classroom Disruptions

Controversial texts provide an important foundation for our class, since our academic coursework requires that we study how to use language to argue persuasively and logically, and that we investigate texts that provoke us. When we combine diversified student backgrounds with provocative texts and persuasive argument, we cannot expect consistent innocuousness. We are aiming always, however, toward CIVIL discourse. That is, the classroom should provide a venue in which students (and instructors) may discuss volatile issues openly, while demonstrating respect for ideas that differ from their own.

In general, my expectations for classroom courtesy follow informal social and professional standards. Thus, as you would in any professional environment, please address others respectfully. Please turn off all cell phones, pagers, beepers, and other electronic devices (INCLUDING LAPTOPS) prior to the start of class. Additionally, since we will spend some of our classroom time on in-class writing or other work, your conduct should never interfere with your classmates’ ability to work productively. During workshop time, however, you may leave your seat, ask questions, or converse quietly with others regarding coursework.
I reserve the right to penalize (by a grade reduction of ½ of a letter grade) repeated or flagrant tardiness, instances of "significant classroom disruption," or other substantive classroom discourtesy. (Note that my judgment determines these offenses.)

**UNIVERSITY POLICIES ON PLAGIARISM AND ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT**

As a University of North Florida student, you commit to UNF’s standards of student conduct, including the Academic Integrity Code, available in its full form at [http://www.unf.edu/registrar/forms/misconduct_policy.pdf](http://www.unf.edu/registrar/forms/misconduct_policy.pdf). The Honor Code requires UNF students to neither give nor receive unauthorized aid in completing all assignments. Violations include cheating, fabrication and falsification, multiple submissions, plagiarism, abuse of academic materials, and complicity in academic dishonesty.

The University of North Florida considers any form of "academic dishonesty" a serious violation of University standards. You should know that violations might result in your expulsion from the University. FOR YOUR PROTECTION, review the UNF Academic Integrity Code, and make sure you understand University standards.

Remember, you must take responsibility for understanding the University’s definitions of plagiarism and academic dishonesty. (Access the Code at [http://www.unf.edu/registrar/forms/misconduct_policy.pdf](http://www.unf.edu/registrar/forms/misconduct_policy.pdf). Examples include the following:

- Submitting all or part of someone else’s work as if it is your own.
- "Borrowing," without crediting the source, any of the following:
  - Any part of song lyrics, poetry, or movie scripts
  - Any part of another person’s essay, speech, or ideas
  - Any part of an article in a magazine, journal, newspaper
  - Any part of a book, encyclopedia, CD-ROM, online WWW page, etc.
  - Any IDEA from another person or writer, even if you express that idea in your own words.
- "Borrowing" verbatim text without enclosing in quotation marks and citing the source.
- Making "duplicate submissions" of assignments - that is, submitting work in one class that you also submit (or have previously submitted) in another class.
- "Collaborating" or receiving substantive help in writing your assignment unless such collaboration is part of the given assignment. (You may receive general advice from tutors or writing lab instructors.)
- Failing to cite sources, or citing them improperly.

**Important Tip:** You should never copy and paste something from the Internet without providing the exact location from which it came.

Plagiarism substantially violates the student academic integrity code. You commit plagiarism when you present the IDEAS or WORDS of someone else as your own. If a student “plagiarizes” all or any part of any assignment, he/she will earn a failing grade on the assignment. University policy also requires that instructors report imposed penalties to the Registrar’s Office, which will maintain a permanent record of the incident in the student’s file. Other forms of academic dishonesty (examples include cheating on a quiz or citing phony sources or quotations) will also result in a failing grade on the assignment as a minimum penalty.

Produce yourself! Make sure the assignments you submit for grading reflect your own work and properly cite any sources from which you obtained ideas, quotations, or information.

To earn an additional point on the LIT 2932 Reading Quiz #1 described at the end of this document, consider the following statement: “If I borrow ideas from another source, but I carefully express the ideas in my own words, I do not need to cite the source.” Is this statement true or false? Record and explain your answer as # 4 on the quiz.

**USEFUL STUDENT RESOURCES**

Many students experience stress while adjusting to college. Although I certainly sympathize if you are experiencing non-course-related problems, you will find better and more helpful resources elsewhere on campus. The services below are available free to students, so if you feel you need help, please don’t wait. Contact the appropriate office below—each of their staffs include trained, caring professionals who have experience helping students deal with specific academic, security, psychological, and emotional issues.

ACE (Academic Center for Excellence) – Academic Advising and Tutoring
Founder’s Hall, 2/2120, (904) 620-1012, [www.unf.edu/es/ace](http://www.unf.edu/es/ace)

The UNF Counseling Center
Founder’s Hall, 2/2068, (904) 620-2602, [www.unf.edu/dept/counseling_center](http://www.unf.edu/dept/counseling_center)

UNF Campus Police, [http://www.unf.edu/dept/upd/index.htm](http://www.unf.edu/dept/upd/index.htm)
Building 41, on UNF Drive, across the street from the Information Booth Emergency Number: (904) 620-2801

Note: Police officers are available 24 hours a day to provide safety escorts to any member of the University Community. To request an escort you may contact the UPD at 620-2800.

The Women’s Center (and Victim Advocacy Program)
Student Life Center Building, 14/2623, (904) 620-2528, Email: [womensctr@unf.edu](mailto:womensctr@unf.edu)
24-hour Crisis Helpline: (904) 620-1010
LIT 2932 Reading Quiz #1 (5 points)

Syllabus Questions:

Develop below three questions regarding the syllabus you have just (presumably) read. Your questions may ask for clarification of confusing points, or you may ask for information that you did not find in the document. However, avoid listing questions that the syllabus already answers. List your questions under numbers 1, 2, and 3. Make sure you put your name at the top of this page before you submit it. We will discuss student questions at the next class session, but you should also submit your written version to receive credit for the quiz.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.