

# Monsters & Monstrosity

Instructor:

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English 132:

Short Story and the Novel

Section 001

MWF 10:30 AM – 11:20 AM

Brooks Hall | Room 151



The human imagination is capable of producing the most outlandish and distorted forms. In literature, these forms often manifest in the figure of the monster. Whether grotesque, supernatural, or psychological, monsters serve as potent symbols that transcend their physicality. They represent the dread and anxiety that lies deep within our collective consciousness—fear of the unknown, societal otherness, the consequences of unchecked ambition, and the moral dilemmas that test the boundaries of our humanity. The enduring power of monsters derives from their ability to evoke deep-seated emotions, provoke contemplation on existential questions, and serve as mirrors reflecting our collective fears and aspirations.

In this class, we will explore the darker side of the human psyche by analyzing the portrayal of monsters in a diverse array of short stories and novels. We will explore monsters in context and consider how they reveal broader cultural fears and anxieties concerning gender, race, class, sexuality, science, and religion. Keep in mind that due to the potentially distressing nature and themes of narratives that contain depictions of monsters and monstrosity, this course may not be ideal for everyone.



## Potential Novels

- ◆ *Frankenstein* – Mary Shelley
- ◆ *Carmilla* – Joseph Sheridan Le Fanu
- ◆ *Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* – Robert Louis Stevenson
- ◆ *Bunny* – Mona Awad
- ◆ *The Changeling* – Victor LaValle
- ◆ *You* – Caroline Kepnes
- ◆ *Catherine House* – Elisabeth Thomas



## Potential Short Story Authors

- ▷ Erin E. Adams
- ▷ Violet Allen
- ▷ Angela Carter
- ▷ Tananarive Due
- ▷ Nathaniel Hawthorne
- ▷ Edgar Allan Poe
- ▷ Rebecca Roanhorse
- ▷ Edith Wharton