

PAPER #3: MONSTER RESEARCH PAPER (20%) & ORAL PRESENTATION (5%)

Due Fri 5/7

Throughout all of human history, monsters have lurked in the stories that we tell each other. Depending on where and when they show up, monsters can represent our deepest fears and most forbidden desires - sometimes even things we may not be consciously aware of. Our monsters are often just a dark reflection of ourselves.

For your third paper, you will write a 1200 word minimum research essay about a mythical monster of your choosing, using both primary and secondary sources. You will discuss the history and evolution of this monster through various times and places, and argue for a specific interpretation of the monster's cultural significance.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Choose a mythical monster (anything except Frankenstein's creature). You may choose from the list at the end of these guidelines, though you aren't limited to those. (Note: monsters of your own invention and/or satirical monsters, such as a "Flying Spaghetti Monster," are off-limits.)
 - a. You may not do the same topic as someone else in the class. As usual, this is a first-come, first-serve thing, so tell me what you want to write about early on.
2. Research this monster, using scholarly sources. **You are required to have at least 6 sources.** Look into both the history of the monster and also various interpretations of its cultural/symbolic meaning.
3. In your paper, tell me about the history and evolution of your monster, and make a case for a specific interpretation of that monster. You may borrow ideas for your interpretation from other scholars, but try to bring your own unique perspective to the topic as well.
4. YOUR PAPER SHOULD BE...
 - a. **Informative/Exploratory:** Include info about your monster's history and origins, how it changed over time, the influence it's had on popular culture, what other monsters it is related to, etc. Try to focus on information that is not very widely known.
 - b. **Analytical:** Examine the monster and make connections to the cultural context. What does the monster symbolize? Why is the monster more popular in some times/places than others? What about this monster captures peoples' attention? What do changing depictions of the monster reveal about the people of different times or places?
 - c. **Persuasive:** Present a clear argument in support of your interpretation of this monster, using the research you gathered as evidence for your claim. You don't have to argue that your interpretation is the *only* correct interpretation, but you should try to present a strong case for why you interpreted the monster the way you did.
5. In addition to your paper, you must also create a **5-7 minute video presentation**, covering the major points of your essay in an informative, engaging way. Try to get creative with this! You may use visual aids if you want in your presentation, but no video clips longer than 1 minute (ask my permission if you feel you have a good reason to use a longer clip). Please don't use video clips to pad out your presentation time.

SOURCE REQUIREMENTS:

- You must have at least 6 sources, including both **primary** and **secondary sources**.
 - A “primary source” is any fictional work featuring your monster. For example, if you were writing about Frankenstein’s creature, your primary sources would include the original novel as well as things like the 1931 Boris Karloff film, Kenneth Branagh’s 1994 film, the 2011 stage play with Benedict Cumberbatch, or even other works that feature the monster as a side character, like the show *Penny Dreadful* (2014).
 - NOTE: some sources might be technically fictional, but are presented as if they were non-fiction, e.g. Animal Planet’s *Mermaids: the Body Found* (2011) or *World War Z* by Max Brooks. You should treat these as primary sources.
 - A “secondary source” is a work *about* your primary sources. An example would be a scholarly article analyzing the themes of Shelley’s novel, or a review of the Karloff film, or a web article giving an overview of several Frankenstein adaptations over time.
- **At least 3 of your sources should be secondary sources.** You may have more than 3, of course; but 3 is the absolute minimum for secondary sources. There is no maximum number.
- **You must have at least 1 primary source.** If you pick a more obscure monster and have difficulty finding primary sources, then talk to me and I may make an exception. But most people should not have trouble finding at least one. There is no maximum number.
 - Keep an open mind when it comes to primary sources. These can include things like eyewitness accounts, novels & short stories, myths & folktales, sacred texts (i.e. the Bible or the Quran), or even YouTube videos. Anything that either 1) created or helped spread the monster’s legend, or 2) functions as evidence of the monster’s existence.
 - Remember, the difference between primary & secondary sources is that secondary sources are works which analyze or comment on primary sources. So, for instance, a YouTube video that supposedly shows footage of a ghost would be a primary source, while a YouTube video analyzing whether or not the first video is a hoax would be a secondary source.
- The remaining 2 required sources can be either primary or secondary sources, whatever works best for you.
- As always, Wikipedia, Sparknotes, Yahoo!Answers, or any other sites similar to those *will not* count as legitimate sources for this paper. However, you can use Wikipedia’s footnotes to find sources if you want.
- Feel free to include audiovisual sources, such as a documentary or a video essay, in both your paper and your video presentation. As usual, if you’re not sure whether something is acceptable or not, just ask.
- I’d recommend using the HCC library & online databases to look for your sources, especially the secondary ones, but you are obviously not limited to these.

PAPER REQUIREMENTS:

- 1200 words minimum — Times New Roman, 12 pt. font, double spaced
- Include an MLA header on the first page, and page numbers in the top right corner
- Your paper should have a clear **thesis statement** somewhere near the beginning, stating which monster you are examining and the main interpretation you will be arguing for.
- Use direct quotes or paraphrased information from *all* of your sources to support your points.

- Cite your quotes & paraphrases using MLA format. Include a properly formatted Works Cited Page at the end, listing *all* of the sources you used. If you have more than 6 sources, you must list them all.
- **DO NOT PLAGIARIZE.** If you use an author's exact words, you must put them in quotation marks and cite your source. Otherwise, you must paraphrase. Both quotes and paraphrases should be cited.

DUE DATES (REQUIRED):

- ~~Since this is a more research-based paper, you must create an **annotated bibliography**. This should include all 6 sources, cited in proper MLA format, as well as a brief paragraph after each source summarizing what the source is about and how you plan to use it. The annotated bibliography will be due on **Friday 4/23**.~~
- Your **rough draft** will be due on Sunday 5/2. This does not have to be complete, but it should be around 600 words at least.
- After you turn in your rough draft, you will be assigned another student's rough draft to edit. Your **peer review** must be completed by no later than **Wednesday 5/5**.
- The **final draft** is due on **Friday 5/7**.
 - **LATE POLICY:** After midnight on Friday, I will not accept any papers, and you will receive an automatic zero for the assignment. Please make sure you turn it in on time!

OTHER DUE DATES (OPTIONAL):

- You may email an electronic copy of your rough draft any time. However, I will not look at any rough drafts sent to me less than 24 hours before the final due date. And depending on the load of rough drafts I receive, I can't guarantee I will get around to looking at yours -- so send it early, if you really want my feedback!
- You may also have an HCC tutor look over your paper for bonus points. Please make sure you provide me with proof that a tutor looked at your paper!
- If you are dissatisfied with your grade, you may revise your paper again and turn it in to me any time before the end of the semester (5/16). How much work you put into revising your paper and following my comments will determine how much your grade on the paper improves.

VIDEO PRESENTATION:

In addition to your paper, you will also create a **5-7 minute video** condensing the major points of your paper into an entertaining and informative presentation. This will be a separate grade from the paper itself.

You will be graded on:

1. **Presentation:** basically, how engaging your speech is, how well you keep the audience interested.
2. **Information:** just like in the paper, do your best to come up with information about your mythical monster that's not as commonly known. Try to teach both me and your classmates something new.
3. **Persuasiveness:** persuade the audience of your points; make yourself likeable and authoritative; use the information you found to give strong evidence to your conclusions.
4. **Effort:** if I feel like you've only done a half-hearted job, you will not score well here; show me that you put effort into making your presentation the best it can be.
5. **Time:** make sure that you condense all the most important points of your paper and get through them efficiently in the 5-7 minutes allotted to you. Going under the time will result in you losing points; going over won't lose you points, but I'd really prefer you not go on too long.

Feel free to get creative with your video. The more entertained I am, and the more I feel you put in a lot of effort, the better your chances of getting a good grade.

You may use video clips, but try to keep them below 1 minute. Video clips do not count toward your total time. (So if your presentation is 5 minutes exactly, but you used a 1-minute video, you'll get points deducted for being below the minimum time limit.)

The video presentations must be submitted to Canvas no later than **Monday 5/10.**

LIST OF MONSTERS

If you wish to do a monster that isn't on this list, just ask!