

Department of Art, University of Calgary, Fall term 2012
ART 311.04
Art Topics Course
Monsters: Figures of Horror in the Visual Arts

Fall term dates: September 14, 2012 - December 7, 2012
Hours: F 12:00 – 3:00 pm (adjustments to be discussed)
Location: Art Building AB 672

Instructor: Katherine Ylitalo
Office Hours: by appointment

Office: AB 643
Email: mkylital@ucalgary.ca

Course description

An exploration of the theme of monsters in western art history from ancient times to contemporary counterparts. As early cartographers warned of danger in uncharted territories with illustrations of frightening creatures, artists have imagined a myriad of monsters from the “unknown” worlds of nature, madness and death. The course also examines the figure of the “sacred monster,” the artist who is monstrous in deeds, but accepted because of genius.

Contacting the Instructor

Given that the class is quite large, email is generally the best way to reach the instructor with simple questions or to arrange meeting times. Please use the U of C Email address: mkylitalo@ucalgary.ca.

I am happy to discuss any aspect of the course materials and requirements with you. Please note, though, that I do not respond to student emails after 5pm on weekdays or any time on weekends or holidays. With the exception of weekends, I will attempt to respond to emails within 48 hours of receipt.

Required Textbook:

Editor: Mark W. Scala, *Fairy Tales, Monsters, and the Genetic Imagination*, Frist Centre for the Visual Arts, Vanderbilt University Press, 2012
The above has been ordered for purchase at the U of C bookstore.

Materials and Entrance Fees

Students are expected to supply their own materials for the studio assignments and to pay entrance fees for the field trip to the Glenbow and the Cinematheque Film Festival.

Learning Outcomes

Students who successfully complete the course will:

1. Develop understanding of the curatorial thesis of the exhibitions, *Fairy Tales*, *Monsters and the Genetic Imagination*, *Florelegium: Jennifer Wanner* and *Menaginary* at the Glenbow Museum and analysis how effectively they are presented and received in the museum.
2. Develop knowledge about the artwork of artists in the exhibitions and the related Calgary Cinematheque Film Festival, as well as the art of other historic and contemporary artists including painters, printmakers, sculptors, photographers, performance artists and filmmakers and how they pursue themes of identity, anxiety, monstrosity, fear, terror and horror.
3. Interpret notions of monsters in light of pertinent physical, psychological, socio-economic, political, historic, scientific, mythological and artistic contexts.
4. Practice skills that are necessary for the examination of art, art theory and art history and visual communication: observation, visual analysis, ability to compare and contrast, and critical thinking.
5. Create monsters in two and three dimensions based on ideas that are developed in the course.

Methods of Instruction and Course Deliverables

The methods of instruction consist of presentations, discussions and some studio work once a week, as well as assigned readings, a museum field trip and participation in the Launch Party and Calgary Cinematheque Film Series at the Glenbow Museum.

There are three written assignments and two studio assignments. Activities related to the exhibitions, *Fairy Tales*, *Monsters and the Genetic Imagination*, *Menaginary* and *Florelegium: Jennifer Wanner* at the Glenbow Museum include a field trip tour of the exhibitions, a research paper based on one of the artists in the exhibitions and a report on participation in the Launch Party, October 18. The assignments will be presented in more detail in class.

Course Requirements and Grading

- (20 percent) Beastiary Project (due September 28)
- (20 percent) Exhibition profile (due October 12)

- (10 percent) Glenbow Museum October 13 Report (due October 19)
- (20 percent) Film Analysis (due Dec 7)
- (30 percent) Monster Project (due November 30)

Each of the requirements of the course must be completed in order to pass.

Grades:	A =	95 – 100%	4.0
	A- =	90 – 94%	3.7
	B+ =	85 - 89%	3.3
	B =	80 - 84%	3.0
	B- =	75 - 79%	2.7
	C+ =	70 - 74%	2.3
	C =	65 - 69%	2.0
	C- =	60 – 64%	1.7
	D+ =	55 – 59%	1.3
	D =	50 – 54%	1.0
	F =	50 – 0%	0

Course Expectations

Complete assigned readings before the class and be prepared to engage in discussion.

Hand in assignment on time. Late papers and projects will be deducted 5% per day (including 5% for each day of the weekend).

Academic Integrity

Practice intellectual honesty. Please review the outline in the University Calendar on intellectual honest, plagiarism, cheating and other academic misconduct:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

Plagiarism will result in an automatic F.

The rule of thumb is to acknowledge the work, ideas, data, writing and conclusions of other scholars clearly and explicitly. Clearly identify the artwork and sources for images in any presentations, written or oral.

Disability Resource Centre

If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.

SAFEWALK Call 220-5333 for escorted walking around campus, day or night.