

Paper #2

The Gothic and Popular Culture Writing Assignment

DUE DATE: Aug 4. (Tuesday). *Submit to me using your shared Drive folder.*

LENGTH and FORMAT: 5-6 pages. Your paper should be double-spaced with 1.25 inch margins. It should have numbered pages and a “Works Cited” page. Please follow MLA format.

NEED HELP?: Set up a time to meet with me on Zoom, or you can always send me an email.

GUIDELINES:

- For this essay, you will select a piece of contemporary/popular art (from roughly the last 50 years) where you see evidence of the gothic at work. You may select a television serial, a comic book/graphic novel, a movie, poetry, a short story, a novel, etc. You should clearly establish where you see elements of the gothic at work in this piece of art. In doing so, you should also identify how it either carries forward or alters the genre of gothic as we’ve been discussing it in class to achieve its own particular set of ends.
- **Close reading will still be central to this paper.** In order to prove the kind of association between the classic British and/or American gothic and the work of art you select, you must muster textual evidence from the texts we’ve read so far and provide a reading of the contemporary work of art you selected. This process will require acts of interpretation. If you decide to work with something visual, you might want to include illustrations (though they won’t count toward your page number count).
- **Structure your interpretation of the passage around a single argument or question.** In other words, do not just provide a list of comparisons. These comparisons should add up to something—how should our understanding of the gothic guide our reading of your object of analysis (i.e. the contemporary artwork). You’re not just proving influence; you’re providing an account of how intertextuality produces a particular meaning for the reader. **Persuade your reader.**
- Your paper must have a title (please be creative).