

British Hauntings

BELMONT: HON 2120 Honors Humanities Seminar, 3 credit hours

UNIVERSITY OF EVANSVILLE: ENGL 330 Special Topics in Literature, 3 credit hours

Spring 2025

Instructor	Dr. Douglas Murray
E-mail	Doug.murray@belmont.edu
Course Meeting Days and Time	TTh, 1-2:15am
Required Experiential Learning Dates	24 January (Lincoln—haunted walking tour), 11 April (Chatsworth and Eyam village) Recommended: 25 January (Nottingham—National Justice Museum)
Office Hours	9-12 TTh

Catalog Description:

The lonely manor house. The forgotten battlefield. The crumbling tower. The country cemetery. If you believe the stories, Britain is full of haunted places. But why is this the case? What's haunting Britain? In literature and art, ghosts appear as afterimages of an unresolved past: hidden torment or unsettled injustice. Don't look back. In this class, we will investigate how ghosts in British literature, film, television, and art conceal cultural traumas in plain sight. We will encounter hauntings from Shakespeare to Sherlock that illuminate feudal strife, family dysfunction, imperial oppression, industrialist exploitation, feminist struggles, and the anxieties of our technological future. Along the way, we will visit investigate Harlaxton Manor, visit haunted locations, watch live theatre, converse with guest lecturers, and reflect on the ghosts that haunt us today. Readings will be both creepy and comical, including a Thomas Gray's "Elegy written in a Country Churchyard," Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, Oscar Wilde's "The Canterville Ghost," Daphne Du Maurier's *Rebecca*, the television show *Black Mirror*, and more. Assignments include an interactive look at Harlaxton's history, exploratory essays, and reflections. Some assignments will include options for audio or video recordings instead of written work. Ultimately, this class will help you examine our responsibilities to the "ghosts" in our past and present as we discover what it means to live in a haunted world.

Like all English classes, this class may sometimes include sensitive material on race, gender, sexuality, religion, and other topics. Please email me early in the semester if you need special considerations or would like to have a conversation with me regarding these or other topics.

BELMONT: As an Honors designated course, Honors Humanities Seminar will focus on a humanities-based topic or theme in a manner that: engages students in interdisciplinary thinking, which values diversity and global awareness; fosters creativity and critical thinking; and develops their skills as writers, researchers and leaders. Specific topic and course titles will vary with each offering.

UNIVERSITY OF EVANSVILLE: Focuses on particular writers or a particular literary movement, subject or period. Past topics have included Fitzgerald and Hemingway, Modern Irish Literature, and JRR Tolkien. Repeatable up to three times with different subject. Prerequisite: Complete one ENGL course or permission of instructor.

Credit Hour Policy Statement:

Combination of standard lecture and other academic activities:

“This class meets the federal credit hour policy through a combination of lecture + laboratory (or lecture + practicum) for a total of 45-75 hours of supervised learning activities for each credit.” (Def 1 & 2)

Course Learning Objectives:

This course is designed to **introduce students to British history and culture** and give student space to **reflect on their experiences while at Harlaxton**. In order to accomplish these two important goals, students will:

- Identify cultural elements of British literature, film/television, and art, including feudalism, imperialism, industrialism/capitalism, feminism, and technology, with a focus on ghosts/haunting
- Explore the history of Britain from 1534-2024
- Critically analyze literature, film/television, and art through writing, discussion, and creative engagement (drawing, acting, walking, etc.)
- Reflect on what it means to live in a “haunted” world, including identifying their responsibilities to the “ghosts” of the past and present

Methods of Instructions:

In person instruction will consist of lectures, small group discussion, and guest lectures. In addition, please expect some field trips, videos, and interactive creative engagement (such as drawing, acting, joining archeological digs, walking, and conversing with people outside of class).

Textbooks and Required Reading:

- Shakespeare, *Macbeth*
- Thomas Gray, “Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard” (Online)
- Daphne Du Maurier, *Rebecca*
- Oscar Wilde, “The Canterville Ghost” (Online)
- Hound of the Baskervilles (TV show and Novel)
- Short stories by Dickens, Wilkie Collins, Elizabeth Bowen and other authors
- A few theoretical terms and readings: Derrida’s “Hauntology” Jeffrey Jerome Cohen, “Monster Culture (Seven Theses)”
- Live theatre and site visits are also considered “required reading” for the course

Grading Criteria:

Assignments

A **commonplace book** gives you space to reflect on and engage the course material. Unlike a journal, which is a personal reflection, a commonplace book invites you to digest outside information, like readings, experiences, and conversations. These will be due most weeks and can be turned in as a video, audio, or writing, and you can skip **one**. In addition, I’ll invite you to post your class notes, which will help you organize your thoughts for our final.. In keeping with our attendance policy, you may skip notes on two days.

You’ll be asked three times during the semester to formally engage in a topic from this class in an assignment called **Course Response**. I will provide a list of possible Course Responses you can choose from including literary analyses, ethnography, creative responses, and others. At least one Course Response **MUST** be a literary analysis of a work we have read this semester.

A **Final Exam and Reflective Project** will help you metabolize and reflect on the work you’ve accomplished throughout the semester.

Commonplace Book	25%
Course Response x 3 (15% each)	45%
Class Notes	10%
Final Exam	15%
Reflective Project	5%

Course Schedule:

Please see Blackboard for most recent schedule.

Grading Criteria:

Commonplace books and class notes are graded on good faith effort—if they have been done to the best of your ability, they will receive full credit/100%. If they have not been fully completed or demonstrate inadequate knowledge of the text, they will receive lower scores.

I will hand out a grading rubric for formal assignments, and we will discuss it in class. All essays are graded on a 100-point scale, with the grade conversion as follows:

Grade	Minimum
A+	100.0
A	93.0
A-	90.0
B+	87.0
B	83
B-	80.0
C+	77.0
C	73.0
C-	70.0
D+	67.0
D	63.0
D-	60.0
F	59.9 and below



In general, I only “round up” final grades if a student has shown a clear desire to learn and engagement in the class through coming to most classes and doing all required work. Otherwise, students are assigned the grade they earned.

Withdrawal and Attendance policies:

Harlaxton College expects regular class attendance by all students. Students are considered sufficiently mature to appreciate the necessity of regular and punctual attendance, to accept this personal responsibility and to accept the consequences of failure to attend. When absences occur due to emergency or medical reasons, students are expected to notify their instructors of the absence prior to class or to seek the assistance of the College nurse or a member of the Student Experience Team for help in notifying instructors.

Instructors have the authority to grant excused absences for medical, psychological, or personal reasons upon review of appropriate documentation and professional recommendation supporting such a request. In the event of long-term illness, reasonable accommodations will be made to allow a student to complete a course. In these cases, the Dean will need to approve the long term nature of the accommodation.

The Dean of Harlaxton College has the authority to grant excused absences for medical, psychological, or personal reasons.

Each instructor is expected to maintain an attendance policy in keeping with the nature of the Harlaxton program and may consider it in evaluating performance in their courses.

Policy Governing Unexcused Absences:

Harlaxton College operates an attendance policy that is binding on all faculty and students. The number of unexcused absences that are allowed before incurring a penalty is related to the number of times a class meets each week. For courses which meet three times a week, students are allowed a maximum of three unexcused absences during the semester without attracting penalty points. For courses meeting twice a week two such absences are permitted, and for courses meeting once a week a single absence is allowed. Additional unexcused absences will attract a grade penalty. **The grading penalty for unexcused absences will result in a third of a letter grade for each absence (A- to B+).**

Policy Governing Excused Absences.

- Excused absences are not given to facilitate student travel independent of College-sponsored travel.
- Students may be permitted to miss class because of participation in academic field trips.
- Instructors must co-ordinate and confirm academic fieldtrips with the Dean, prior to the commencement of the Semester to ensure their inclusion in the Semester timetable.

- Where authorization for an academic fieldtrip is requested after the commencement of the semester, the request must be submitted to the Dean.

The following information is required:

- Purpose and brief description of the official Harlaxton event or academic fieldtrip.
- Dates, location, and times (as applicable).
- Alphabetical list of students involved [Last Name/First Name] along with their student identification number.

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If approval is granted:

- Instructors affected will be notified at least one week prior to the class period during which absence is anticipated, or as soon as possible.
- Missed class time due to student participation is to be considered an excused absence.
- The grade of a student may not be lowered in any class due to excused absences.
- It is the student's responsibility - to take the initiative by consulting with their instructors before the absence occurs, and - to do what is required by the instructor to make up all missed assignments and/or examinations.
- Instructors are required to assist students in these occasional situations of excused absences.

Honor Code:

All students at the University of Evansville agree to the University honor code: *I will neither give nor receive unauthorized aid, nor will I tolerate an environment that condones the use of unauthorized aid.*

AI may be used only with prior permission or direction by the instructor.

- All work submitted in this course must be your own.
- The use of generative AI composition tools, such as those offered by ChatGPT, Google Bard etc. is prohibited in this course except for specific assignments and subject to the instructor's guidelines.
- Work generated by such tools without proper attribution is plagiarism and, thereby, a breach of the University's Plagiarism and Academic Honesty policy.

Disability Policy:

It is the policy and practice of the University of Evansville to make reasonable accommodations for students with properly documented disabilities. Students should contact Disability Services within the Office of Counseling Services by calling 812-488-2663 to seek services or accommodations for disabilities. Written notification to faculty from Disability Services is required for academic accommodations.

The University of Evansville Disability Services office will share the request for academic accommodations with the Academic Support team at Harlaxton College. Staff members at Harlaxton will meet individually with students to discuss needs and provide additional information related to examinations or other assessments.

Students from partner institutions should provide the appropriate letter of accommodation from their institution to the Academic Support team at Harlaxton College.



Non-Discrimination Statement

The University of Evansville expects all members of its community to treat each other with respect and civility. Harassing behaviors directed towards any member of our community will not be tolerated. As part of its commitment to non-discrimination, the University specifically prohibits harassment based on any other characteristics set forth in its nondiscrimination statement as follows: including race, color, gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, creed or religion, national origin, age, disability, veteran status and all federally protected groups/classes. Any form of harassment undermines the mission of the University and negatively impacts the University community as a whole.

Prohibited Conduct and Confidentiality

The University of Evansville is committed to fostering an atmosphere free from harassment and discrimination. This commitment includes identifying problems that may lead to sexual harassment and misconduct, as well as other forms of harassment and discrimination, by creating an atmosphere in which the entire University community is sensitive to preventing prohibited conduct. Additionally, the University is committed to providing support and resources to individuals who have experienced prohibited conduct. This commitment includes effectively responding when a student, visitor, guest or program participant is the victim of prohibited conduct.

All campus employees, students, and guests are required to abide by the Title IX and Other Sexual Harassment and Misconduct Policy, the Harassment and Discrimination Policy, and the Consensual Sexual or Romantic Relationships Between Employees and Students Policy. Violation of these policies could result in disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion for students and termination for employees.

Faculty members at the University of Evansville are considered “Responsible Employees” under the applicable federal guidelines and the University’s policies. This means that I am unable to offer you confidentiality if you report any incidence of prohibited conduct to me as defined by Title IX statute. If I am made aware of a violation, I am required to report any known information to the Office of Institutional Equity.

You may choose to report the violation yourself the following ways:

Email: · Annie Sills, Assistant Director of Institutional Equity and Title IX Coordinator:

cs175@evansville.edu ·

Keith Gehlhausen, Executive Director of HR and Institutional Equity: kg77@evansville.edu ·

Title IX: titleix@evansville.edu

Phone: 812-288-5261

Online: <https://www.evansville.edu/safety/report.cfm>

You may also choose to speak with a Confidential Resource. Confidential Resources are required to maintain confidentiality and cannot report violations to the Office of Institutional Equity:

University of Evansville



- Counseling Services: counselingservices@evansville.edu, 812-488-2633
- Health Center Professionals: healthcenter@evansville.edu, 812-488-2033
- University Chaplain: chaplain@evansville.edu, 812-488-5262

Harlaxton College

- College Nurse: Lesley Selby, RGN, +44 01476 403027, lseyby@harlaxton.ac.uk
- Counselling Services: counselling@harlaxton.ac.uk