

i Information



Course code: SFE21417

Course: The Gothic, American Style

Date: 29 November 2017

Duration: 5 hours

Permitted sources: English – English Dictionary

Lecturers: Dr. Johanna Wagner

The examination:

The examination consists of **2** Sections. All parts must be answered. Of your final grade, Section 1 is 40 % and Section 2 is 60 %.

Date of announcement of the examination results: 21
December 2017

Results will be announced in Studentweb

1 1. Matching (8 pts)

Match the left terms with the *most closely correlated* term/subject/definition/title in the list.

1. Miles and Flora

(Heimlich/Unheimlich, "A Good Man is Hard to Find", "The Lottery", "The Outsider", "August 2026: There Will Come Soft Rains", "The Turn of the Screw", "Stone Animals", "Dear John Wayne")

2. Frankenstein

(Heimlich/Unheimlich, "A Good Man is Hard to Find", "The Lottery", "The Outsider", "August 2026: There Will Come Soft Rains", "The Turn of the Screw", "Stone Animals", "Dear John Wayne")

3. Uncanny

(Heimlich/Unheimlich, "A Good Man is Hard to Find", "The Lottery", "The Outsider", "August 2026: There Will Come Soft Rains", "The Turn of the Screw", "Stone Animals", "Dear John Wayne")

4. Native Americans

(Heimlich/Unheimlich, "A Good Man is Hard to Find", "The Lottery", "The Outsider", "August 2026: There Will Come Soft Rains", "The Turn of the Screw", "Stone Animals", "Dear John Wayne")

5. Redemption, Grace

(Heimlich/Unheimlich, "A Good Man is Hard to Find", "The Lottery", "The Outsider", "August 2026: There Will Come Soft Rains", "The Turn of the Screw", "Stone Animals", "Dear John Wayne")

6. Magical Realism

(Heimlich/Unheimlich, "A Good Man is Hard to Find", "The Lottery", "The Outsider", "August 2026: There Will Come Soft

Rains", "The Turn of the Screw", "Stone Animals", "Dear John Wayne")

7. Tradition

(Heimlich/Unheimlich, "A Good Man is Hard to Find", "The Lottery", "The Outsider", "August 2026: There Will Come Soft Rains", "The Turn of the Screw", "Stone Animals", "Dear John Wayne")

8. Post apocalyptic

(Heimlich/Unheimlich, "A Good Man is Hard to Find", "The Lottery", "The Outsider", "August 2026: There Will Come Soft Rains", "The Turn of the Screw", "Stone Animals", "Dear John Wayne")

2 2. Fill in the Blank (3 pts)

Each excerpt is from material you've read throughout the semester. Identify the text (full title) and the Author (full name).

1. "They shoot the White Girl first." (1 pt)

Text

Author

2. But they pulled me out of the sack,
And they stuck me together with glue.
And then I knew what to do.
I made a model of you,
A man in black with a Meinkampf look

And a love of the rack and screw.

And I said I do, I do. [...] (2 pts)

Text

Author

3 **3. True/false (5 pts)**

Select the correct alternative.

1. Old Woman Magoun actively kills Lily

Select an alternative:

- True
- False

2. Roderick is the protagonist in "The Fall of the House of Usher"

Select an alternative

- True
- False

3. Theo Writes "Eleanor Come Home" on Hill House's wall

Select an alternative

- True
- False

4. In "The Quadroons" a young woman is enslaved because of the one-drop rule

Select an alternative

- True
- False

5. In "Berenice," it is her teeth that her cousin obsesses over

Select an alternative

True

False

4 4. Multiple Choice (3 pts)

Choose the best word(s) that correctly complete(s) the phrase relevant to this course.

1. In *Passing*, Irene Redfield is the _____

Select one or more alternatives:

- d. Flat character
- c. Antagonist
- a. Narrator
- b. Center of Consciousness

2. The beginnings of the American Gothic was primarily influenced by _____

Select one or more alternatives

- a. German literature
- b. Mexican literature
- c. Dutch literature
- d. British literature

3. "Anything can happen in the _____; may I kiss you."

Select one or more alternatives

- a. sand
- b. dance
- c. woods
- d. crowd

5 Short Answer

Choose 6 out of the 7 questions below. Answer 6 questions fully, but briefly. These are *not* essay questions; therefore a few words or a sentence or two should be sufficient.

1. "The Fall of the House of Usher" and "The Turn of the Screw" handle **two different transgressions** of a sexual nature. Name each transgression and its corresponding text.

Fill in your answer here

2. What are the four indigenous features that proved decisive in producing a powerful and long-lasting American variation of the Gothic? Name them.

Fill in your answer here

3. In "Pawn shop" by Sherman Alexie, the speaker finds what pieces of personal property underneath the glass display case? (Be specific about the peoples' cultural group.)

Fill in your answer here

4. Briefly explain the idea of the sublime connected to the gothic (definition from the class, not the dictionary).

Fill in your answer here

5. Briefly explain why the end of “The Lottery” by Shirley Jackson is so shocking, especially juxtaposed to its beginning.

Fill in your answer here

6. The protagonist in H.P. Lovecraft’s “The Rats in the Walls” begins speaking various languages at the end of the story. What is the significance of these languages? What does it symbolize is happening to the protagonist?

Fill in your answer here

7. Why is the image of a Native American audience cheering at a film in Louise Erdrich’s “Dear John Wayne” so uncannily disturbing to the Reader?

Fill in your answer here

6 Section 2: Literature Essay (60%)

Write an essay on **ONE** of the topics below. The essay does not need to be a certain length, but must develop your points sufficiently to make your argument. **REMEMBER:** The material you use should come from the course. Define your terms; a strong thesis should guide your work; the parts of an essay are important; and examples always help.

1. Gothic literature often blurs our understanding of good and evil, protagonist and antagonist. Discuss how a thoughtful antagonist and a thoughtless protagonist create a series of uncanny moments for each other in "A Good Man is Hard to Find," and ultimately how one has an important revelation of grace through the other.

2. Gothic texts transgress taboos, often questioning easy narratives about life and the world in which we live. Using your understanding of the special kind of fairytale *Into the Woods* is and the text provided below, discuss what the Baker is questioning in this song. What is it that he finds so difficult, perhaps even incomprehensible? **Note:** this question is related to the entire context of the play, not simply the song itself.

3. The remaining words on the oven in *Ruby* are "... the Furrow of His brow." However, as it becomes clear to the reader that *Ruby* is dying, many citizens' scramble to interpret the idiom by offering their own words, such as "**Beware** the Furrow of His brow (older generation)," "**Be** the Furrow of His brow (younger generation)," "**We are** the Furrow of His brow (younger generation after the massacre)." Discuss the differences in meaning between these various idioms and how they symbolize *Ruby's* increasing collapse as a utopian society.

4. Utopian places often end up being dystopian places in gothic literature. Explore how the utopian space in "August 2026" became its exact opposites. What did the creators want for these utopias? What were they intended to do? What happened to make them the dystopias they came to be? Remember this text was published in 1950, so the historical context is significant. Be as specific as you can in your examples from the story to support your points.

i Text for Section 2, Question 2

Text for Section 2, Question 2

“NO MORE”

[BAKER]

No more questions, please.

No more tests.

Comes the day you say, 'What for?'

Please.. no more.

[BAKER'S FATHER]

We disappoint, we disappear, we die, but we don't.

They disappoint in turn, I fear,

Forgive, though, they won't.

[BAKER]

No more riddles.

No more jests.

No more curses you can't undo, left by fathers you never knew.

No more quests.

No more feelings. Time to shut the door.

Just.. No more.

[BAKER'S FATHER]

Running away, let's do it.

Free from the ties that bind.

No more despair, or burdens to bear,

Out there in the yonder.

Running away, go to it.

Where did you have in mind?

Have to take care.. unless there's a 'where',

You'll only be wandering blind.

Just more questions.. different kind.

Where are we to go?

Where are we ever to go?

Running away, we'll do it.

Why sit around, resigned?

Trouble is, son, the farther you run,

The more you'll feel undefined.

For what you have left undone, and more,

What you've left behind.

We disappoint, we leave a mess, we die, but we don't.

We disappoint in turn, I guess. Forget, though, we won't.

[BOTH]

Like father, like son.

[BAKER]

No more giants waging war!

Can't we just pursue our lives, with our children and our wives,

'Til that happy day arrives, how do you ignore

All the witches, all the curses,

All the wolves, all the lies, the false hopes, the good-bye's,

The reverses,

All the wondering what even worse is still in store!

All the children.

All the giants..

No more.