

ENGL 5529-002: Weird and New Weird Fiction Preliminary Reading List and Schedule

Books to buy

Note: This is a list of books, mainly our primary readings, you should own in one format or another. I have provided Amazon links to commonly available, standard editions of each text. You should feel free, of course, to borrow these books if you can or want, to buy/borrow other editions (including Kindle or other electronic editions), or to look for used copies (on Amazon or elsewhere; *Perdido Street Station* was available, for example, as a mass market paperback and used copies of that edition are considerably cheaper than the one I link to here). Let me know if you have any questions. You will find full citations for each text in the class bibliography below.

- Harrison, *Viriconium*
 - <https://www.amazon.com/Viriconium-M-John-Harrison/dp/0553383159/>
- Jackson, *The Haunting of Hill House*
 - <https://www.amazon.com/Haunting-Hill-House-Penguin-Classics/dp/0143039989/>
- Johnson, *Pym*
 - <https://www.amazon.com/Pym-Novel-Mat-Johnson/dp/0812981766>
- Ligotti, *Songs of a Dead Dreamer and Grimscribe*
 - <https://www.amazon.com/Songs-Dreamer-Grimscribe-Thomas-Ligotti/dp/0143107763/>
- Machado, *In the Dream House*
 - <https://www.amazon.com/Dream-House-Carmen-Maria-Machado/dp/1644450038/>
- Miéville, *Perdido Street Station*
 - <https://www.amazon.com/Perdido-Street-Station-Bas-Lag-Mi%C3%A9ville/dp/0345443020/>
- Saadawi, *Frankenstein in Baghdad*
 - <https://www.amazon.com/Frankenstein-Baghdad-Novel-Ahmed-Saadawi/dp/0143128795/>
- VanderMeer, *Annihilation*
 - <https://www.amazon.com/Annihilation-Novel-Southern-Reach-Trilogy/dp/0374104093/>
- Yamashita, *Through the Arc of the Rain Forest*
 - <https://www.amazon.com/Through-Rain-Forest-Karen-Yamashita/dp/1566894859/>

Tentative reading schedule

Notes:

- I will not be changing any of the books listed above and I do not expect to change the order of the weeks and what each week focuses on. There is some small chance I will change the secondary readings a bit, but I do not expect to do so as of now.
- Any reading that is **not** one of the books you need to buy will be available as a PDF, online as a web page, or in some other accessible format through Canvas before the start of the term. Each text's format is listed on the schedule.
- Note that there is reading for the first week of class. I will send you links and PDFs for these texts in the next week.
- The full bibliographic information listed below the schedule is for your information. Do not feel that you have to seek out full texts.

- In many instances, I don't yet have page numbers for texts abstracted from longer works, so for now such texts are simply noted as being "from" a longer work.
- Finally, I understand that the reading for some weeks is substantial. As scholars, we often have to make choices about what to read and I invite you to think about what you can read, what you need to read, and what you would like to read (especially as can/need/like intersect with your own interests). We all come from different backgrounds and will all bring different information to the class, and the reading list below is meant to give us some common ground on which to discuss weird fiction. So, please try to get to the primary readings (novels, short stories, and so on) and as much of the secondary reading as you can each week.
- The class will likely run as some combination of lecture, student presentation, and full class discussion. Presenters will be responsible for having done all of the reading for the week and for doing additional research on the week's topic/readings, especially insofar as they relate the material to their own interests.

Week 1 (26 August)

Introductions, definitions, and histories

- Lovecraft, "Supernatural Horror in Literature" (online)
- Miéville, "Weird Fiction" (PDF)
- Thacker, from *Tentacles Longer than Night* (PDF)
- Noys and Murphy, "Introduction: Old and New Weird" (PDF)
- Marshall, "The Old Weird" (PDF)
- Weinstock, "The New Weird" (PDF)
- Chambers, "The Repairer of Reputations" (online)

Week 2 (2 September)

Methods 1: cultural geology

- McGurl, "The Posthuman Comedy" (PDF)
- McGurl, "The New Cultural Geology" (PDF)
- Sederholm and Weinstock, "Introduction: Lovecraft Rising" (PDF)
- Lovecraft, "The Call of Cthulhu" (online)
- Ligotti, *Songs of a Dead Dreamer and Grimscribe* (book)

Week 3 (9 September)

Theme 1: the monster

- Cohen, "Monster Culture (Seven Theses)" (PDF)
- Braudy, from *Haunted* (PDF)
- Miéville, "M.R. James and the Quantum Vampire" (PDF)
- Halberstam, from *Skin Shows* (PDF)
- Barker, "In the Hills, the Cities" (online)
- Barker, "The Skins of the Fathers" (online)
- James
 - "The Ash Tree" (online)
 - "Count Magnus" (online)
- Lovecraft, "The Shadow over Innsmouth" (online)

Week 4 (16 September)

Genre 1: grammars of fantastika

- Clute

- “Story,” “Wrongness,” “Thinning,” “Recognition,” “Healing” (entries in online *Encyclopedia of Fantasy*)
- “Novum,” “Cognitive Estrangement,” “Conceptual Breakthrough,” “Utopia” (entries in online *Encyclopedia of Science Fiction*)
- “Horror,” “Bound Fantastic,” “Free Fantastic,” “Sighting,” “Thickening,” “Revel,” “Aftermath” (PDF)
- “Fantastika in the World Storm” (online)
- Suvin, from *Metamorphoses of Science Fiction* (PDF)
- Shaviro, from *Discognition* (PDF)
- Mieville, “Introduction” to *At the Mountains of Madness* (PDF)
- Lovecraft, *At the Mountains of Madness* (online)

Week 5 (23 September)

Methods 2: speculative realism

- Meillassoux, from *After Finitude* (PDF)
- Thacker, from *In the Dust of this Planet* (PDF)
- Blackwood, “The Willows” (online)
- Lovecraft, “The Colour out of Space” (online)

Week 6 (30 September)

Theme 2: scale

- Clark, “What on World is the Earth?” (PDF)
- Chakrabarty, “The Climate of History: Four Theses” (PDF)
- Ghosh, from *The Great Derangement* (PDF)
- Crutzen, “The Geology of Mankind” (PDF)
- Vermeulen, “Future Readers” (PDF)
- VanderMeer, *Annihilation* (book)

Week 7 (7 October)

Theme 3: crises of representation

- Alaimo, from *Exposed* (PDF)
- Boes and Marshall, “Writing the Anthropocene: An Introduction” (PDF)
- Canavan and Hageman, “Introduction: ‘Global Weiriding.’” (PDF)
- Shapiro, “The Weird’s World-System” (PDF)
- Negarastani, from *Cyclonopedia* (PDF)

Week 8 (14 October)

Methods 3: life and nonlife

- Foucault
 - from *The History of Sexuality* (PDF)
 - from *Security, Territory, Population* (PDF)
- Povinelli, from *Geontologies* (PDF)
- Thacker, from *After Life* (PDF)
- Hodgson, *The Night Land* (online)

Week 9 (21 October)

Theme 4: women and the weird

- Gilbert and Gubar, from *The Madwoman in the Attic*
- Grosz, from *The Incorporeal* (PDF)

- Gilman, “The Yellow Wallpaper” (online)
- Machado, “The Husband Stitch” (online)
- Jackson, *The Haunting of Hill House* (book)

Week 10 (28 October):

Methods 4: critique, utopia, historicism

- Jameson, from *Archaeologies of the Future* (PDF)
- Freedman, from *Critical Theory and Science Fiction* (PDF)
- Miéville, “Cognition as Ideology” (PDF)
- Harrison
 - *The Pastel City*, in *Viriconium* (book)
 - *A Storm of Wings*, in *Viriconium* (book)

Week 11 (4 November):

Genre 2: revision and expansion

- Gordon, “Reveling in Genre” (PDF)
- Noys and Murphy, “Morbid Symptoms” (PDF)
- from VanderMeer and VanderMeer, *The New Weird* (PDF)
- Freedman, from *Art and Idea in the Novels of China Miéville* (PDF)
- Miéville, *Perdido Street Station* (book)

Week 12 (11 November):

Theme 5: race, disaster, and neoliberalism

- Fisher, from *Capitalist Realism* (PDF)
- Weheliye, from *Habeas Viscous* (PDF)
- Jackson, from *Becoming Human* (PDF)
- Dimock, from *Through Other Continents* (PDF)
- Johnson, *Pym* (book)

Week 13 (18 November):

Theme 6: weird migrations

- Bahng, from *Migrant Futures* (PDF)
- Yamashita, *Through the Arc of the Rain Forest* (book)

Week 14 (25 November):

Theme 7: Monstrous geopolitics

- Fukuyama, “The End of History?” (PDF)
- Huntington, from *The Clash of Civilizations* (PDF)
- Michaels, from *The Shape of the Signifier* (PDF)
- Saadawi, *Frankenstein in Baghdad* (book)

Week 15 (2 December):

Theme 8: queered/qweird genre

- Sheldon, from *The Child to Come* (PDF)
- Edelman, from *No Future* (PDF)
- Halberstam, from *The Queer art of Failure* (PDF)
- MacCormack, “Queering the Weird” (PDF)
- Machado, *In the Dream House* (book)

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