

Monsters, Ghosts and Revenants
CLCS6015
Syllabus



Module Code:	CLCS6015
Credit points:	20
Semester	1
Tutor	Dr Fiona Mitchell

This course will explore the representations of supernatural beings in the ancient world. It will use literary, iconographic and archaeological evidence to examine the roles of monsters, ghost and revenants in ancient thought, culture and life. We will consider the definitions of monstrosity, and the ways in which the perception and definition of monstrosity is dependent on cultural context. We will examine the ways that the boundary crossing natures of monsters and other supernatural beings were used to consider and define the boundaries of the world (e.g. human/animal, god/monster, living/dead). We will examine such creatures not only in mythological contexts, but also in ancient geography, science, religion and cultural practices. In this way we will examine the roles and functions of monsters, ghosts and revenants in Greco-Roman antiquity.

There will be reading required for each week. The readings and questions to consider during your reading will be provided on the Moodle page.

Aims and Learning Outcomes

- **Aims:**
 - To enable students to interpret and analyse representations of monsters within ancient Greco-Roman culture.
 - To enable students to understand and evaluate modern scholarship on monstrosity.
- **Learning Outcomes:**
 - Upon the completion of this module, the student should be able to:
 - demonstrate a secure understanding and sound knowledge of the main uses of monstrosity in ancient texts, iconography and cultural practice;
 - analyse and assess the ancient evidence relating to monsters and supernatural creatures;
 - evaluate critically the main areas of modern debate concerning monstrosity in ancient culture.

Contact Information

Please feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss any problems you may have concerning this module. My office hours are **Monday 1-3 pm, Tuesday 9-10 am and Thursday 11am-12pm**, my e-mail is f.mitchell@uwttd.ac.uk.

Course Structure

This course has 30 contact hours. You will have 3 hours of classes during the teaching weeks.

Classes will take place in Tucker 01.

All classes are compulsory. If you cannot attend a class due to illness or for another reason, please email me as soon as possible.

Assessment

Assessment for this course will consist of a piece of coursework and an exam.

The coursework will be one **2500 word assignment**. You will need to pick one question from the four available; these will be available on a separate document on the Moodle page. This will count for **50%** of your final grade.

The exam will be in the form of a **'take home' exam**. During the exam period you will be able to pick up the question options at 9 am on the day of the exam. An essay of 2500 words is due in at 3 pm on that day. This will count for **50%** of your final grade.

Welsh First language

If your first language is Welsh and you would like to submit any assessed coursework in Welsh, please see the Faculty Office as soon as possible to make arrangements for this.

Special needs / requirements

If you have any special needs (e.g. dyslexia, visual impairment) that need to be taken into account for the teaching of this module, please make sure that our Welfare Officer, Dr Matt Cob (R.Parkes@tsd.uwtsd.ac.uk), is made aware of this so that we can make sure that we fully support you in your studies.

Returning of work

Detailed feedback is given on Turn-It-in but if you would like to discuss your work in more detail, do come and see us during one of our office hours (see times given above).

Unfair Practice

All essays and gobbets will be submitted through Turn-It-In. You can submit a draft of your work and read the Turn-it-In report in advance of the deadline. You need to follow the regulations regarding unfair practice and academic integrity as they can be found in the University's Academic Quality Handbook and the Programme of Study Handbook. If you have questions about unfair practice, and how to avoid it, do not hesitate to ask us.

Bibliography

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- Purves, A.C., 2010. *Space and Time in Ancient Greek Narrative*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
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