

MONSTER MASH SYLLABUS

Spring, 2021

Week 1: Exposition: overview of course, definitions of terms of folktale types, psychology of fear, teraphobia, cannibalism, ancient, mythical monsters reflecting the science and thinking of the era. Monsters in rituals, shamanism. Composites in art. Middle Ages superstitions, religious beliefs.

Week 2: Monsters from the Middle Ages to 19th Century reflecting the technology and thinking of the era. Vampires, Werewolves, and Frankenstein.

Week 3: American Monsters based upon superstitions, legends, tall tales, and hoaxes. Commercialization of regional creatures.

Week 4: Creatures from 20th century to present day: Movie Monsters, Internet monsters, children's literature and survey results.