Ghosts and monsters, deadly secrets, eerie houses, sublime landscapes, cruel parents, uncontrollable urges: these are the key features of Gothic literature. Today, the Gothic continues to shape our most basic ideas about desire, family, and the past. We are haunted by the Gothic. Studying the Gothic can therefore help us understand and think critically about our lives today. Questions we’ll consider: How have authors in the Gothic tradition challenged and imagined alternatives to norms of gender and sexuality? What can representations of the supernatural in Gothic fiction teach us about religious belief and scientific knowledge today? Does fiction that aims to frighten readers have the same value as “serious” literature?

possible readings
Walpole, *The Castle of Otranto* (Oxford; ed. N. Groom)
Radcliffe, *A Sicilian Romance* (Oxford)
Lewis, *The Monk* (Oxford)
Austen, *Northanger Abbey* (Penguin)
Shelley, *Frankenstein*, 1818 edition
Wilde, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*
Hurley, *The Loney*