Gothic Literature, Prof. Sean Scanlan

Final Essay Assignment

Fall 2011

Two Options:

Option 1. Write a three-page essay in which you examine one or more of the following short stories from American Gothic Tales:

\* Ann Rice: “Freniere” (349)

\* Nancy Etchemendy: “Cat in Glass” (486)

\* Katherine Dunn: “The Nuclear Family: His Talk, Her Teeth” (525)

In this essay, explore how ethics work within the frame of reference of Gothic fiction. And you should consider using some of the core terms that we have examined: vampirism, gothic, queer, uncanny, etc. You may compare/contrast two of the stories.

Option 2. Write a three-page essay in which you examine one of the following graphic novels:

\* Brereton, Gomez, Florea: Buffy The Vampire Slayer: The Dust Waltz

\* Edward Gorey: The Iron Tonic: Or, A Winter Afternoon in Lonely Valley (OpenLab)

\* Sarah Nelson: Vampire Phantasm. http://www.vermillionworks.com/vp/?p=125

\* Bobby Crosby and Chris Crosby, Illustrated by Owen Gieni: Last Blood http://lastblood.keenspot.com/

In this essay, explore how ethics work within the frame of vampire fiction, beginning with Bram Stoker’s representations of Dracula. And you should consider using some of the core terms that we have examined: vampirism, gothic, queer, uncanny, etc. You may compare/contrast two of the graphic novels.

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Essay Details:

1. Make sure to begin with a strong thesis that you support by using evidence from the text. Also, use direct quotations that you properly cite from the original text.

2. Write using clear paragraphs that contain declarative topic sentences.

3. End with a conclusion that does more than just repeat or summarize your own thesis. You might consider asking (and answering) a provisional question about your story of graphic novel. Or, you might consider inquiring about the future of the genre of gothic literature, gothic short stories, gothic graphic novels, or the gothic in our culture.

4. Three full pages, Use proper, one-inch margins, MLA formatting, standard 12 point font, black ink, no cover page, and if you use outside sources—you must have a works cited page.

5. If you have questions about format, writing a thesis, paragraph structure, conclusions, or citations, please study the Purdue OWL website that is on our OpenLab course page. If you still have questions after trying to answer questions on your own, then ask me.

6. Above all: choose a topic that interests you. And if you want to write about something that is not on this list, just ask me. Chances are that I will approve it.

Important Dates:

\* Topic and thesis discussion: December 5

\* Due date for Final Essay: December 14

-Late essays will be penalized by one full letter-grade for each day late.

\* Final Exam Preparation: December 14

\* Final Exam: December 19

\* Last Class: December 21 (party)