

Gothic Literature, Prof. Sean Scanlan
Final Essay Instructions, Fall 2020

Write a short essay (minimum 800 words) in which you examine the novel *The Haunting of Hill House* (1959) by Shirley Jackson in terms of at least one of the major concepts that we have explored during the last several weeks such as: architecture/space, gothic homesickness, haunting, fantastic, marvelous, uncanny (Vidler, Freud, Todorov), gender, or queer theory. Of course, you may also make use of other terms as they may be of use to you such as: the Central Gothic Irony and the Spirit of Perverseness.

These two options may help you decide how to approach your own essay:

A. Chose one or two scenes in which important actions occur and examine the way that space and architecture inform the plot or character emotions/decisions. A variation on this option would be to use Anthony Vidler's idea of the "architectural uncanny," a concept that may help readers make more sense of certain scenes and the novel as a whole. In addition, students can make use of the Wikipedia definition of Haunted House as a way to argue that the phenomena are real (uncanny) or imagined (marvelous) or somewhere in between (fantastic). Make sure to accurately quote sources. Please do not try to read outside sources. I want to read your interaction with the novel and our class concepts.

B. This option makes use of Darryl Hattenhauer's ideas "the double." See especially pages 162–164 in his chapter on HHH. This option asks you to consider Hattenhauer's ideas and to think of your own pairings and doubles. You may agree or disagree with Hattenhauer, but make sure to provide evidence in the form of quotations from the novel. Consider the idea of radical balance: do the characters in your pair oppose each other or are they similar? Do they get along? How do they interact and converse? Are they attracted to each other?

Essay Details:

1. Begin with a strong thesis that you support by using evidence from the text.
2. Include at least **four** direct quotations that you properly cite.
3. Include a Works Cited (MLA style).
4. Write using clear paragraphs that contain declarative topic sentences.
5. You may use evidence from the Wise film, but I want the majority of your essay to be about the novel.
6. You may use our class notes, my lectures, and any class handouts.

Rubric:

1. A clear title, thesis, method, and introduction (25 points)
2. well-structured sentences, clear paragraphs, proper length, and free from typos (25 points)
3. Accurate examination of the novel; inclusion of at least 4 direct quotes; accurate in-text citations; and a Works Cited page (25 points)
4. Clear understanding and use of gothic concepts (25 points)

Due Date:

*** Post Final Draft to OpenLab (Final Essay category) by Midnight December 14, 2020**