

**International College of Manitoba**

**English 1400: Thematic Approaches to Literature  
Gothic Monsters and Narratives of Unbelonging**

**Due: Thursday 16 November, 2017.**

**Final Synthesis Assignment:** Final Synthesis paper is worth (25%).

**Length/Format:** Six (6) paragraphs; one (1) introductory paragraph, four (4) body paragraphs and one (1) paragraph for your conclusion. Your final synthesis paper must be (7-9pages) pages, typed (double-spaced, 12 pt. Font, one-sided, pages numbered). Use MLA citation and format. Please include an informative title. The purpose of this assignment is to compare and contrast using *synthesis*. You are writing a synthesis paper, which involves comparing and contrasting a minimum of two (2) sources. (All drafts and in-class assignments must be handed in with final paper to receive full marks).

**Thesis Statement:** You must write an **introductory paragraph**. Remember to consider the context from which you are approaching the problem. Formulate, draft and revise a thesis statement based on the question below. You can ask a question (inductive) and set out to answer the question or you can make a statement (deductive) and support the statement with textual evidence. Write the introduction and contextualize all of your sources. You must convey your own purpose or thesis statement in one or two sentences. Communicate to the reader your main comparisons and contrasts that you intend to take up in the body of your paper and remember to contextualize the work first.

Questions:

1. Focus your attention on any film we watched this term. Research some of the critical reviews and commentary on this film. Compare or contrast the main points of critical comment that the author raises and compose a synthesis paper based on the critical reception of this film. What are the arguments and criticisms against the film? Do you agree or disagree with them? Use a minimum of one (1) critic, and identify a minimum of four (4) points that are raised by the critic about the film in the body section of your paper.
2. Define point-of-view according to Abram's *Glossary of Literary* terms and discuss the way in which our view of the "mad woman in the attic" alters as a result of Jane Rhys or Brendan Maher's re-presentation of her in *Wide Sargasso Sea*. Choose four (4) narrative strategies that the author uses to present alternative points-of-view of either Antoinette/Bertha and/or Rochester.
3. Compare or contrast the representation of children from any two (2) works we studied this term. Link your similarities and differences to the theme of abuse. What is at stake and undergirds these author's works regarding their views on children?

4. Compare or contrast the representation of any two (2) women or male characters that we studied this term and discuss the theme of betrayal and revenge. How are their characterizations similar or different? Discuss. Raise (4) four strategies or devices to analyze the development of characterization and discuss in your papers. Link your understanding back to the cultural construction of the non-conventional or non-traditional “female gothic monster” as it appears in these authors’ works.
5. Choose scenes from any two (2) works we studied this term and discuss how the setting and place, tone and atmosphere, symbols and metaphors *attempt to* mirror the characters’ inner struggles or torments. Compare the use of a minimum of any of the above four (4) stylistic and literary devices used in the scenes. Link back your discussion to the overall theme of “overreaching”, ambition and revenge.
6. Choose any two (2) works that we studied this term and compare and/or contrast the author’s use of satire and the ironic views espoused regarding the themes of love, marriage and family values.
7. Discuss four (4) differences from script to screen in any of the works we studied this term.

**Body:** Use topic sentences and follow an outline. **In a comparison paper you need to make a list of *similarities and differences* in terms of the different approaches to your chosen inquiry.** You can use your list to create different topic sentences and paragraphs for the body of your paper. Make sure that all your paragraphs refer back to a topic sentence or significant statement on that theme or central idea. You need four (4) body paragraphs and an introduction and conclusion making six in total.

**Conclusion:** Remember to account for your research problem and thesis statement to demonstrate whether or not you proved with substantive evidence the original claims that you set out to make. If you did not demonstrate what you set out to prove then explain the significance of what you did discover. Also you must offer the reader “food for thought” apart from the closing observations that you have already made.

**Works Cited:** Final page that details all of your bibliographic sources.