

WESTERN UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

CL9616B: *The Uncanny and the Fantastic*



**Instructor:** Vlad Tumanov ([vtumanov@uwo.ca](mailto:vtumanov@uwo.ca))

**Brief Overview**

Fantastic fictional worlds are often based on the violation of physical laws while the uncanny involves the combination of the familiar with the deeply disturbing. With the uncanny and the fantastic, story-telling

becomes a tool for exploring the hidden recesses of the human mind and for facing our greatest fears. In the modern age, authors have delved into such realms in order to work out and model challenges of life in the ordinary world by pushing the human imagination and emotions to the limit. This course will consider a number of works in different languages representing various approaches to the fantastic and the uncanny.

**Course Requirements:**

Participation - 10%  
Oral presentation - 30%  
Essay 1 - 30%  
Essay 2 - 30%

**Texts in Sequence:**

Chamisso von, A. [Peter Schlemihl](#). [Another version](#). 1813  
Hoffmann, E.T.A. [The Sandman](#). [Another version](#). 1816  
Gogol, Nikolai. [The Nose](#). (another [translation](#)) 1835-6.  
James, Henry. [The Turn of the Screw](#). 1898.  
Kafka, Franz. [The Metamorphosis](#). [Another version](#). 1915.  
Bulgakov, Mikhail. [Heart of a Dog](#). 1925.  
\*Background Theory - Todorov, Tzvetan. [The Fantastic](#).

