

HNRS 130.007: I am not myself today: Representations of multiplying, conflicted, and fragmented selves

Spring 2017

Professor Tamara Harvey

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TR 3:00-4:15 p.m., West 1001

Office hours: M 3:15-4:15 p.m., T 1:30-2:30 p.m. and by appointment

Office: Robinson A 421

A note about this syllabus

We will spend only a short period of time in class discussing this syllabus and the schedule of readings and assignments. Be sure to read it thoroughly on your own and then complete the required syllabus quiz on Blackboard. You can take that quiz as often as you like until you score 100%. If later in the semester you have questions about course requirements that are covered in this syllabus, I will answer them only if you have a perfect score on the syllabus quiz.

Course description

In this course we consider representations of divided or multiplying selves in the literary and visual arts alongside important theories that characterize individuals in fragmented ways. We begin with the unintentionally haunted or divided self, turn to the intentionally posturing self of “selfies,” and finish by considering a more self-consciously political representation of a self pulled in different directions by personal and social forces but also in some ways healed through community and social activism.

Learning Outcomes

Students who successfully complete this course should be able to:

- Read and analyze works of literary and visual art, paying close attention to formal characteristics as well as historical context
- Read theoretical and scholarly articles and essays accurately, critically, and analytically and use them to develop critical readings of literary and visual texts
- Discuss different theoretical and artistic approaches to the self
- Write clearly argued, well-supported, and error-free analytical essays using MLA format

Required texts

Most readings for this class are available as pdfs and links available under “Readings” on our Blackboard site. You should also make yourself familiar with MLA style conventions as described on the [Purdue OWL website](https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/11/) (<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/11/>).

Required text:

Jackson, Shirley. *The Haunting of Hill House*. Penguin, 2006. ISBN: 978-0143039983

Course requirements

- Weekly responses. 20 points each; 200 points total. 20%
- Paper 1 (4-6 pages, 1000-1500 words). 200 points. 20%
- Midterm exam. 150 points. 15%
- Selfie project. 150 points. 15%
- Paper 2 (4-6 pages, 1000-1500 words). 200 points. 20%
- Participation. 100 points. 10%

Weekly responses:

Before class each Tuesday, complete a weekly response on Blackboard for that week’s readings. Unless otherwise noted, you may write about any one of the assigned texts for that week. Each response should include the following: 1) a one paragraph summary of the main argument and distinguishing elements of the assigned text, including observations about how it builds on or diverges from other texts we have read or that are stressed in the reading itself, **OR**, if you struggle with the reading, a clear, specific explanation of what you find difficult to understand in the text; 2) an important passage from the text, typed into your response paper; and 3) a paragraph explaining why you chose that passage and what exactly you find important, puzzling, contradictory, or wrong in it. **To receive full credit, weekly responses must be turned in on time. Late responses will receive half credit if they are received by the end of the week. After one week has passed, no credit will be given for late responses.**

Papers:

You will write three formal papers, including the Selfie project, over the course of the semester. More specific information will be provided later in the semester for each of these papers (in some cases, a short class presentation may also be part of your assignment grade). For each, you may submit an optional draft by the draft deadline for formal feedback from me. **I HIGHLY RECOMMEND SUBMITTING DRAFTS, NO MATTER HOW MESSY OR SHORT.** I also recommend coming to discuss your papers during office hours. Papers should be double-spaced and follow MLA formatting and citation conventions. All papers should be submitted on Blackboard as attached files. **Late papers will be downgraded 5 percentage points for each**

week they are late unless you have discussed your situation with me and received permission to turn your work in late.

Life happens passes:

Over the course of the semester you can use two “life happens passes” to turn an assignment in 3 days late without penalty. All you need to do is write me at tharvey2@gmu.edu and let me know that you are exercising this option. If at the end of those three days you are still stuck, you must meet with me to discuss why you are stuck and what you can do to get unstuck.

Revision policy:

Any paper you write for this class may be revised. In order to revise a paper you must 1) make an appointment to discuss your plans for revision before you begin revising and 2) make substantial revisions to your prose and argument. Revisions are due two weeks after your graded assignment is returned to you.

Midterm exam:

The midterm will likely consist of identifications, short answer questions, and an essay question and will cover all material from the first half of the class, with particular stress on those materials not included in paper assignment 1. More specific information will be provided before the exam.

Participation:

Ten percent of your grade is determined by your participation in this course. You are expected to participate actively in discussion and all class activities.

Grading scale

A=93-100	C=73-76
A-=90-92	C-=70-72
B+=87-89	D+=67-69
B=83-86	D=63-66
B-=80-82	D-=60-62
C+=77-79	F=below 60

Campus resources and policies

Writing center

The Writing Center is a **free** writing resource. Tutors are available to assist students at any level and at any stage of their writing process. Tutors will not proofread your writing, but they will help you to develop revision and editing strategies. The main Writing Center is located in Robinson A 114A though there are also locations in Fenwick Library, the Johnson Center Library, and on the Arlington Campus. To contact the Writing Center, call (703) 993-1200 or email wcenter@gmu.edu. To schedule an appointment, register at <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/policy-agreement>.

Electronic resources

Blackboard will be our main online space for this class. There you will find all readings and assignments, you will submit your weekly responses and formal papers, and I will post announcements. These announcements will also be sent to the email address associated with your Blackboard account, so please make sure this address is correct and that you check it regularly. **If Blackboard is ever down when you need to submit an assignment, please email it to me directly at tharvey2@gmu.edu.**

Academic integrity

GMU is an Honor Code university; a full description of the code and the honor committee process is available at <http://oai.gmu.edu/the-mason-honor-code-2/>. The bottom line: the work you submit as your own must be your own and when you rely on someone else's work you must properly credit their work in the proper, accepted form.

Plagiarism means using words, opinions, or factual information from another source without giving that source credit. You must cite, using a standard citation format, all the articles, books, online sources, and other sources that your own writing draws on, either directly or indirectly. In addition to listing sources in a bibliography, you must also correctly quote and/or attribute passages and ideas from your sources that you use in the body of your text. Paraphrases and summaries of others' ideas must also be properly attributed. This is a matter of academic honesty, but proper citations and attributions also improve your writing. Your citations can help persuade readers and also give them the information they need to pursue the topic further. Learning how to organize your notes and keep track of your sources so you don't confuse your ideas with others' and are able to quickly cite sources are important writing skills.

Another aspect of academic integrity is the free play of ideas. Vigorous discussion and debate are encouraged in this course, with the firm expectation that all aspects of the class will be conducted with civility and respect for differing ideas, perspectives, and traditions. When in doubt, please ask for guidance and clarification.

Disability services

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please contact the Office of Disability Services (SUB I, room 2500; (703) 993-2474; <http://ds.gmu.edu/>). All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.

GMU Nondiscrimination Policy

George Mason University is committed to providing equal opportunity and an educational and work environment free from any discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation,

or age. Mason shall adhere to all applicable state and federal equal opportunity/affirmative action statutes and regulations.

Moreover, in this class we seek to create a learning environment that fosters respect for people across the entire range of human identities. We encourage all members of the learning environment to engage with the material personally, but to also be open to exploring and learning from experiences different than their own.

Emergency procedures

GMU alerts students, faculty, and staff to emergencies using Mason Alert (<https://ready.gmu.edu/masonalert/>). Emergency guides are available at <http://ehs.gmu.edu/emergencymanagement/plans-guides/>.

Other Useful Campus Resources

- University Catalog: <http://catalog.gmu.edu>
- University Policies: <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu>
- University Libraries “Ask a Librarian”: <http://library.gmu.edu/ask>
- Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS): (703) 993-2380; <http://caps.gmu.edu>
- Learning Services: <http://learningservices.gmu.edu/>
- Career Services: <http://careers.gmu.edu/>

Enrollment policies and deadlines

- Students are responsible for verifying their enrollment in this class.
- Schedule adjustments should be made by the deadlines published in the Schedule of Classes:

Last Day to Add/Last Day to Drop with No Tuition Penalty	January 30, 2017
Last Day to Drop	February 24, 2017
Selective Withdrawal Period (undergrads only)	February 27-March 31, 2017
- After the last day to drop a class, withdrawing from this class requires the approval of the dean and is only allowed for nonacademic reasons.
- Undergraduate students may choose to exercise a selective withdrawal. See the Schedule of Classes for selective withdrawal procedures.

Schedule of readings and assignments

Be sure to bring copies of all assigned readings for a given class to class, along with your notes and annotations. You may do this on paper or electronically.

I. You're not what you seem

Week 1

Tues., 1/24: Introduction.

Thurs., 1/26: Shirley Jackson, *The Haunting of Hill House*, chapters 1-3 (pp. 1-67)

Week 2

Tues., 1/31: **Weekly response paper due before class.** Shirley Jackson, *The Haunting of Hill House*, chapters 4-9 (pp. 68-182)

Thurs., 2/2: Sigmund Freud, "The Uncanny" and excerpts from *Beyond the Pleasure Principle and Civilization and Its Discontents* (pdf).

Paper 1 introduced.

Week 3

Tues., 2/7: **Weekly response paper due before class.** Freud, "Femininity."

Thurs., 2/9: Edgar Allan Poe, "The Fall of the House of Usher" (pdf)

Week 4

Tues., 2/14: **Weekly response paper due before class.** Oliver Sacks, from *The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat* (pdf)

Thurs., 2/16: Ed Yong, from *I Contain Multitudes: The Microbes Within Us and a Grand View of Life*

Optional draft of paper 1 due Friday, 2/17 by 11:59 p.m. on Blackboard.

Week 5

Tues., 2/21: **Weekly response paper due before class.** Jacques Lacan, "The Mirror Stage."

Thurs., 2/23: Louis Althusser, "Ideology and Ideological State Apparatuses." **Selfie project introduced.**

Week 6

Tues., 2/28: No class. **Midterm administered online.**

Thurs., 3/2: No class. **Work independently on selfie project**

II. Strike a Pose

Week 7

Part 1 of Selfie project due Monday, 3/6 by 11:59 p.m. on Blackboard.

Tues., 3/7: Cindy Sherman packet (pdf)

Thurs., 3/9: Brief presentations and discussion of part 1 of your selfie projects

Spring break, 3/13-3/19

Week 8

Tues., 3/21: **Weekly response due before class.** Roland Barthes, “The Death of the Author” and “The Face of Garbo” (pdf)

Thurs., 3/23: Judith Butler and Luce Irigaray selections. Voguing clips

Optional draft of final selfie project due on Sunday, 3/26 by 11:59 p.m. on Blackboard.

Week 9

Tues., 3/28: **Weekly response due before class.** Time lapse selfies (“Me” by Ahree Lee, “Everyday” by Noah Kalina, “Time Clock Piece” by Tehching Hsieh). Selection from Jill Walker Rettberg, *Seeing Ourselves Through Technology* (pdf)

Thurs., 3/30: Tobin Siebers, “My Withered Limb” and selections from *Disability Theory* (pdf)

Week 10

Tues., 4/4: **Weekly response due before class.** TBA

Thurs., 4/6: Final selfie presentations

Final selfie project due Friday, 4/7 by 11:59 p.m. on Blackboard

III. *Lemonade*: “Who the fuck do you think I am?”

Week 11

Tues., 4/11: **Weekly response due before class.** Beyoncé, *Lemonade* (watch entire visual album—on reserve in the library or consider a trial membership (free) to TIDAL)

Paper 3 introduced

Thurs., 4/13: Beyoncé, *Lemonade*

Week 12

Tues., 4/18: **Weekly response due before class.** Kimberlé Crenshaw, “Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics, and Violence Against Women of Color”

Thurs., 4/20: bell hooks, “Moving Beyond Pain” (online); Feministing: “A Black Feminist Roundtable on bell hooks, Beyoncé, and ‘Moving Beyond Pain’”

Optional draft of paper 3 due Sunday, 4/22 by 11:59 p.m. on Blackboard.

Week 13

Tues., 4/25: **Weekly response paper due before class.** Diane Railton and Paul Watson, selection from *Music and Moving Image: Music Video and the Politics of Representation*

Thurs., 4/27: Jamila A. Cupid and Nicole Files-Thompson, “The Visual Album: Beyoncé, Feminism, and Digital Spaces”

Week 14

Tues., 5/2: TBA

Thurs., 5/4: TBA

Paper 3 due Thurs., 5/11 by 11:59 p.m. on Blackboard.