

Mythological Creatures in Media Syllabus

Fall semester 2026

Instructor Information

Instructor	Email	Office Location & Hours
Hillary K. E. Solomon-Gates	N/A	Online only

General Information

Description

Learn how werewolves, vampires, and zombies originated and how their images have changed through film and television.

Expectations and Goals

This course will teach me the origins of some very popular mythological creatures and how their images have changed with their presence on film and television. This course will run from September 28th, 2026 to November 23rd, 2026.

Course Materials

Required Reading

Book: Vampire Forensics by Mark Collins Jenkins

Book: Monstrous Creatures by Aaron Mahnke

Article: Philosophy of the living dead: at the origin of the zombie-image by James McFarland

Article: Zombies--a pop culture resource for public health awareness by Melissa Nasiruddin, Monique Halabi, Alexander Dao, Kyle Chen and Brandon Brown

Article: Werewolves in Pop Culture by Rhiannon Harvey

Required Watching

Film: Origin of the vampire, in ancient mysteries, season 3.

YouTube Video: The Werewolf's Modern Metamorphosis | Monstrum by Storied/PBS

Course Schedule

Week	Topic	Reading/Watching	Exercises
Week 1	Vampiric Origins pt. 1	Vampire Forensics ch. 1-5	250 word essay
Week 2	Vampiric Origins pt. 2	Vampire Forensics ch. 6-10	250 word essay
Week 3	Vampires in Media	Origin of the Vampire	Research paper
Week 4	Werewolf Origins pt. 1	Monstrous Creatures ch. 1-3	250 word essay
Week 5	Werewolf Origins pt. 2	Monstrous Creatures ch. 4-5	250 word essay
Week 6	Werewolves in Media	The Werewolf's Modern Metamorphosis	Research paper
Week 7	Zombie Origins	Philosophy of the Living Dead	250 word essay
Week 8	Zombies in Media	Zombies article	Research paper

Additional Information and Resources

Assignment Information

There will be an assignment due at the end of each week.

- 5- 250 word essays: each essay will describe the article or chapters read and connect the reading to a piece of media
- 3- Research papers: each research paper will be at least three pages and focus on connecting an aspect of the mythological creature and how a popular piece of media affirms or reworked said aspect

Reminder!!!

The point of this curriculum is to learn without the penalties of grades! Be gentle with dates and assignments. This is all about having fun with the material. <3