

Assessment guidelines: Term paper

Level: the course is aimed at MA students and those of equivalent background.

**Highly successful essays should:**

- Have a clear thesis statement and/or research question grounding the argument
- Demonstrate an excellent understanding of, and strong critical engagement with, traditions of supernatural literature in English as well as associated contexts and conceptual issues
- Deploy a high level of analysis and critical thinking
- Communicate effectively and fluently in appropriate academic English
- Be well presented and thoroughly documented, with a clear and consistent referencing style
- Deploy and engage with a range of well-chosen secondary materials
- Offer some distinctive or original perspectives

**Moderately successful essays should:**

- Offer a response which is mainly of relevance to the question and its terms
- Demonstrate some understanding of, and engagement with, the texts, traditions and concepts in question
- Make use of some appropriate secondary materials
- Show some evidence of the ability to analyse material
- Be written in a generally readable and fluent form and style
- Provide appropriate references

**Low-scoring and failing essays** will not satisfactorily meet some or all of these criteria.