

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT BINGHAMTON

Department of Comparative Literature – POE & VERNE Fall 2009, CoLi211P

TR 8:30-9:55 a.m. Instructor: Marilyn Gaddis Rose

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COLI 211P – POE & VERNE - Exploring the psyche while exploring the world and critiquing history; Edgar Allan Poe (1809-1849) and Jules Verne (1828-1905) accomplished these aims. Poe owes his reputation to the French discovery of his work in 1842 when Verne was an impressionable 14-year-old reader. Each was well-informed and clairvoyant, and it will be up to this class to decide whether the former guided the latter. With both writers, it is clear that dark themes predominate even when there are happy endings.

This is a "C" course. This means that students will be required to write a minimum of 20 pages with mandatory revisions. Creative options (poetry responses, alternative endings etc. are acceptable). *MLA Style* will be followed. Grades will be based 40% on writing and 60% on participation in class discussions. There will be extra-credit options for oral reports.

Textbooks:

1. Verne, alleged to be among the 10 most translated world authors. The campus Bookstore will have the recommended translations for *From the Earth to the Moon*, *Paris in the 20th Century*, *The Mighty Orinocco*, and *An Antarctic Mystery; or the Sphinx of the Ice Fields*. Students who use other translations or print off-line should expect to encounter minor variations. (Richard Howard's translation of *Paris in the 20th Century* is still protected by copyright.) Students who want to read Verne in French may wish to order from Amazon.ca. The Bartle collection is excellent.

2. Poe. The Bookstore has ordered *The Complete Tales and Poems of Edgar Allan Poe*. However, any edition of his prose will suffice, and most of his stories can be printed off-line. NOTE: There are eight Poe stories that everyone is expected to have read. They are "Berenice," "Morella," "Ligeia," "The Fall of the House of Usher," "The Purloined Letter," "The Murders on the Rue Morgue," "The Masque of the Red Death," and "The Cask of Amontillado."

SCHEDULE OF READINGS

Week 1. September 1. Course expectations and cautions.

Introduction to material via Poe's "Alone"

September 3. 1-page review Poe and Verne websites.

Bring Poe to class; choose a poem for class discussion and be prepared to justify your choice

[September 7. Labor Day holiday] Week 2. September 8/10. Poe, "Hans Pfaall," "The Balloon Hoax," "Mellonta Tauta"

Week 3. September 15/17. *Earth to the Moon*

[Rosh Hashanah. September 19-20]

Week 4. September 22/24. *Earth to the Moon*

Report needed on the sequel *Around the Moon*

[September 28. Yom Kippur]

Week 5. September 29. 2 to 3-page response to reading; bring Poe text to class

October 1. Poe, "The Premature Burial," "Some Words with a Mummy," "Ligeia"

Week 6. October 6. Poe, "The Fall of the House of Usher"

October 8. Poe, "Morella"

Week 7. October 13. Poe, "MS Found in a Bottle," "Oblong Box"

October 15. Poe, "A Descent into the Maelstroem,"

Week 8. October 20/22. Verne, *The Mighty Orinocco*

Week 9. October 27-29. Verne, *The Mighty Orinocco*

Poe movie shown on October 28.

Week 10. November 3. 2 to 3-page response; Poe, "William Wilson"

November 5. Poe, "The Man of the Crowd"

Week 11. November 10. Verne, *Paris in the 20th Century*

Verne movie shown on November 12.

November 12. Verne, *Paris in the 20th Century*

Report appropriate on *The Underground City*

Week 12. November 17. 2 to 3-page response; Poe, "Arthur Gordon Pym"

November 19. Poe, "Arthur Gordon Pym"

Week 13. November 24. Poe, "Arthur Gordon Pym"

[Thanksgiving. November 26-29]

Week 14. December 1, 3. Verne's sequel, *The Sphinx of the Ice Fields*

Week 15. December 8/10. Verne, *The Sphinx of the Ice Fields*

December 11. Last day of classes

December 12. final response paper and portfolio due

December 12-13. Reading period

December 14-18. Examination period. Students who need to make up absences may request a take-home examination, due December 15.