

ENGL 2233

The Weird

General Information

Instructor: Jonathan Newell jnewell@langara.ca (Office: A203)

Course Times: Mondays and Wednesdays, 4:30-6:20pm

Credits: 3 (for information about transfer credit, visit bctransferguide.ca)

Course Description

We are living in deeply “weird” times. ENGL 2233: Weird Fiction suggests that the literature of the weird – with all of its unfathomable monsters, metaphysical mysteries, and sinister cults – resonates more closely with our lived experiences than conventional literary realism. The course tries to make sense of the strange period in which we find ourselves through an examination of weird fiction, a genre lying at the border of the Gothic, science fiction, and fantasy. It considers the ways the weird evokes wonder and fear while asking philosophical and political questions. How has the weird been used to explore societal fault-lines and anxieties? How might we use it to learn something new about the world around us, with all its paradox, inscrutability, and dread? A wide range of weird texts will be considered, from classic weird tales to more recent New Weird stories from a diverse array of authors, including Silvia Moreno-Garcia, H.P. Lovecraft, Angela Carter, Octavia Butler, Junji Ito, and China Miéville

Course Texts

- Silvia Moreno Garcia – *Mexican Gothic*
- Junji Ito – *Uzumaki*
- China Miéville – *The City & The City*
- Ann and Jeff VanderMeer – *The Weird: A Compendium of Weird and Dark Stories*

***course texts are subject to change before the semester begins**