

Spring 2022: ENGL 5650 (Section 003)  
Advanced Seminar in Literary Study  
in-person, T/H 12:25-1:45, LNCO 3875

*love and monsters*

Instructor: Dr. Angela Smith: [ang.smith@utah.edu](mailto:ang.smith@utah.edu)



Image: Altered still from trailer for *Candyman* (dir. Nia DaCosta, 2021)

This course explores the strangenesses, delights, and horrors of bodyminds, humanness, animals, monsters, relationships, love, power, violence, time and space(s), and, especially, transformations. Interwoven throughout these texts and their themes are the dynamics of race, gender, sexuality, disability, economics, nationalism, culture, and shifting or persisting historical contexts. We will both examine these texts closely and consider the vast and complex issues they invoke. We will learn to write an incisive and compelling interpretive scholarly essay, but we'll also undertake shorter and more creative projects throughout the course.

Texts *may* include Robert Louis Stevenson's *Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* (novella, 1886), Alfred Hitchcock's *Psycho* (film, R, 1960), Octavia Butler's, "The Evening and the Morning and the Night" (1987), Colm McCarthy's *The Girl with All the Gifts* (film, R, 2016), Bernard Rose's *Candyman* (film, R, 1992), Nia DaCosta's *Candyman* (film, R, 2021), N. K. Jemisin's *The City We Became* (2020), and Rivers Solomon's *Sorrowland* (novel, 2021).

**Content Notice:** This course includes both literary and movie texts. Given the theme of "Love and Monsters," our texts feature weirdness, strange bodily happenings, injury, disabling/disability, illness, mental distress, and horror elements — and, through all of these, a lot of love! The literary texts include some descriptions of sexual acts, violence, and death. The movies are horror films, mostly R-rated, for some gore, scary/upsetting events, violence/death, and implied sexual acts. If these elements might make the reading/viewing particularly difficult for you, you might want to choose an alternative course. But I promise a thoughtful, fun, and critical engagement with these compelling texts, and with their highly relevant and significant themes, with plenty of content notices up front for each text, so you know what's coming up!