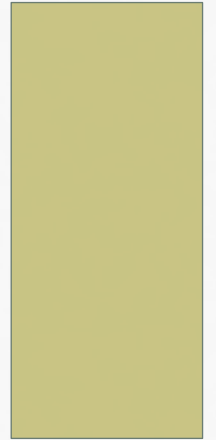


# COURSE THEMES

ENGLISH 106



# INDIVIDUAL & SOCIETY

- How does one live as an individual **and** belong to a community or society?
- Individualism—personal desire, choice, freedom—free will. Not conforming—determine one's own identity. Take a stance & guard against social pressure/expectations. Development of empathy—valuing different classes. Isolation of individual (gender?). Fight against societal conformity. Individual can affect change of societal perspectives (social class, race). If excessive, can lead to disorder, lack of common standards, and even anarchy. What responsibility does the individual have in society? The significance of individuals valuing and passing down legacies, which provide order, stability, and meaning on personal and societal levels.
- Society—Order and stability—accepted rules of behavior, standard values and attitudes. We follow rules and conventions to make society turn/run. If excessive, can be restrictive and confining, loss of individuality: societal power, control, and authority (e.g., race, gender, ethnicity). Society can reinforce division/separation and shape individuals. Different forms society (government) might take?
- Do the demands of belonging to a society (e.g., giving up some freedoms or personal desires) allow individuals to be free and secure? Do we need to be “watched” in order to act morally and ethically? Does individuality make a society better, more productive and more innovative/progressive, even if there are occasional risks that individuals will violate the rights of others?

# EXTRAORDINARY & FANTASTIC

- What does it mean to be extraordinary? Fantastic?
  - To deviate from normal or expected patterns, to be out of regular order. Not according to rule.
  - Exceptional, remarkable, exaggerated, fanciful
- Mysterious: reader tries to “figure out”/builds suspense
- The extraordinary and fantastic can arise out of everyday life and/or be conceived of in the imagination/in the mind (psychological). Can be that which is familiar and unfamiliar, possible and seemingly impossible. Blends reality (realism) and supernatural (surrealism). Science can reveal the fantastic to us? Scientific romance? Science fiction?
- How do we react to the fantastic? Wonder, fear, confusion, disinterest, morality/ethics? What does the nature of extraordinary and our reaction to it reveal about us? Our society? Certain individuals? Their actions and thoughts?