The Introduction to Literature courses are designed for Freshmen and Sophomores, and meet the Arts & Letters group requirement. This course is not intended for Juniors, Seniors, or English majors. In this section we will be reading short stories and novels centered on the theme of the double--tales of alter egos, split personalities, "secret sharers" and other peculiar psychological connections between characters. The texts were written over the past 212 years in the US, Russia, Portugal and England.

Books (at the University Bookstore)
Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness/The Secret Sharer*  Signet
James Weldon Johnson, *The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man*  Dover
Fyodor Dostoevsky, *Notes from Underground/The Double*  Penguin
Chuck Pahlaniuk, *Fight Club*  Henry Holt/Owl
Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*  Dover
José Saramago, *The Double*  Harcourt/Harvest
Edgar Allan Poe’s “William Wilson” the first story we will read, is available at <http://www.eapoe.org/works/tales/wilwilc.htm>

Writing Assignments
This is a reading-intensive and writing-intensive course. Although we will meet only three hours a week, this four-credit class requires two critical papers of at least 4 pages each, as well as a prepared essay to be written on the final exam, which constitutes a third paper. To do well on these assignments, you will need to devote substantial time to drafting, revising, and proofreading your work. Please follow the “requirements and advice for papers” handout posted on the blackboard site.

Reading questions
You need to complete the entire reading assignment before coming to class, and bring book with you to class. To help focus your reading, I have prepared one or two questions for each class meeting. These questions may address the text's plot, vocabulary, or literary techniques. The daily questions are found at the end of this syllabus, and on the blackboard site. You should keep these questions in mind as you read, and be prepared to discuss and write about them in class. They will often (but not always) form the basis for in-class essays or quizzes, which you can expect once a week.

Grades:
in-class essays or quizzes, 3 points each 30 points
attendance and participation 10 points
mid-term exam 10 points
first paper 15 points
Blackboard Site
I have activated the Blackboard coursesite, at <http://blackboard.uoregon.edu>. On the site you can check on the assignments and schedule, get paper topics, participate in the on-line discussion board, and check your point total on the gradebook. The reading questions will serve to begin discussion board threads. I will read the contributions to the discussion board and reply to some of them, and your postings will count toward the class participation component of the grade. It is no substitute for coming to class, however. If you need help with your password or with using Blackboard, go to the Knight Library ITC.

Attendance
I will take attendance by the method of a sign-in sheet that will circulate during class, although the quiz will on some days take the place of the sign-in sheet. Please sign your full name to verify your presence. Absences should be limited to three classes, of our 19 meetings, and those missing four or more will be penalized a full grade.

Academic Integrity
All work submitted must be your own and must be written exclusively for this class. All writing assignments must address the required paper topics. All sources you use for your writing must be properly documented. If you have any questions about documentation or plagiarism, please ask me for clarification.

Writing Tutor
This course has been assigned a writing tutor, Jamie Broady, jbroady@uoregon.edu. She is trained in writing instruction and is available to help you with all steps in the writing process: from preparing an outline to matters of structure, revising, and grammar. I encourage you to meet with her for help, before or after the paper is due. Contact her by email to set up an appointment.

Classroom Electronic Communications Policy
In this class, cell phone messaging and the use of laptops is prohibited. All such devices should be stored in your bags or left at home. I encourage note-taking, on paper, and quizzes and exams will be written by hand on paper.

Schedule of Readings and Assignments
9/27 Poe, "William Wilson" read in class or before class
9/29 Conrad, "The Secret Sharer" part 1

10/4 Conrad, "The Secret Sharer" part 2
10/6 Pahlaniuk, Fight Club, chapters 1-8 first paper due

10/11 Fight Club, chapters 9-18; watch scenes from film Fight Club
10/13 Fight Club, chapters 19-30

10/18 Saramago's The Double pp. 1-106 [chapters 1-6, though they aren’t numbered]
Reading Questions

Poe's "William Wilson"
Sept. 27th- What happens at the end of this story? What is the evidence that the second William Wilson may be only an hallucination or psychic projection of the first?

Conrad’s The Secret Sharer
Sept. 29th - On the third page of the story the narrator refers to "that ideal conception of one's own personality every man sets up for himself secretly." How does this line turn out to be important in the story?
The story uses a good deal of nautical terminology which may be unfamiliar, and which I do not expect you to look up in a dictionary. Either define two such terms if you know them, or list four which you don't know.

Oct. 4th - Compare Leggatt's account of setting the reefed foresail on the Sephora, which occurs midway through part I, with the captain's version early in part II. What is the key difference, upon which Leggatt asserts his righteousness?

Palahniuk's Fight Club
Oct. 6th - In the first few chapters, how do you get a sense that the narrator is anxious about his masculinity? What kinds of behaviors or symbols does he believe are masculine? Are these things that he is comfortable having or doing?
Oct. 11th - Perhaps the most venerable form of the Double in western literature is that of the soul (or character) divided into good and evil manifestations: think of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, or of the mythology of lycanthropy and vampirism. How does Fight Club update these traditions to make them suit a modern setting and sensibility?

Oct. 13th - At what point in the story (or film, if you saw it before reading the novel) did you realize that Tyler Durden and the narrator were the same person? How does the film overcome the challenge of concealing or representing this phenomemon?

Saramago's The Double
Oct. 15th - One of the doubles in this novel is a history teacher; the other is a movie actor. What might each profession, and the differences between them, signify in Saramago's novel?

Oct. 20th - Discuss how women are portrayed in this novel: Tertuliano's girlfriend, António Claro's wife, Tertuliano's mother, etc. Does the author/narrator seem to regard women in a manner different from men? Defend your view by citing passages from the text. One notable woman from Greek mythology, Cassandra, is invoked by TMA’s mother. How does this allusion work?

Oct. 25th - Analyze the brief final chapter that concludes The Double. Were you surprised, perplexed, or gratified by it? How did the ending change your view the novel's form, or of its protagonist?

Dostoevsky's The Double
Oct. 27th - In chapter two, in his conversation with the doctor, is Mr. Golyadkin's description of himself accurate? Refer to something in his later behavior that shows why or why not. What is the attitude of the narrator toward Mr. Golyadkin? Find passages which suggest any two of the following: mockery, pity, amusement; or suggest your own.

Nov. 1st - All three novels we have read, Fight Club and the two entitled The Double, portray the protagonists’ lives at work, in middle-class, white-collar jobs. Are these men's/jobs the source of the mental instability that produces the double? Is there any suggestion that the double may be only a hallucination on the part of Golyadkin? What is the evidence in support of this idea, and what stands in opposition to it?

Edgar Huntly
Nov. 3rd – Huntly admits to a strong curiosity about Clithero. In chapter 2 he says, "Curiosity is vicious, if undisciplined by reason, and inconducive to benefit." Yet just after this he adds, "Curiosity, like virtue, is its own reward." How does Huntly justify his curiosity and his pursuit of Clithero through the middle part of the novel? Do you think his actions are virtuous?

Nov. 8th - Detective novels often employ the device of doubling between the detective and the criminal. Edgar Allan Poe is credited with inventing this motif with his character C. Auguste Dupin in “The Purloined Letter” and “Murders in the Rue Morgue.” For example, it is common in detective fiction for investigators to try to recreate the scene of the crime and to think like the criminal. How does Edgar Huntly follow this pattern?
How does sleepwalking make it possible for a character to be a double of himself, that is, to have two separate identities which are unaware of one another? Compare the use of this technique in *Edgar Huntly* to how it was used in *Fight Club*.

Nov. 10th - In chapters 24-27 of *Edgar Huntly*, we have the denouement that is typical of gothic novels and of episodes of Scooby Doo. Other characters come on the scene to explain what had really happened during the long pursuits and sleepwalking episodes of Edgar and Clithero. Summarize who speaks and what they reveal about earlier mysteries, including who murdered Waldegrave and who stole Waldegrave's letters from Edgar's desk.

*Frankenstein*

Nov. 15th – *Edgar Huntly* and *Frankenstein* are both Gothic novels, and, as I will explain in class, the Gothic has been defined it at least two ways: by the setting of the novel, and by the theme of a tension between superstition and reason. Find some elements of each in the first chapters of this novel.

Nov. 17th – Near the end of volume 2 Victor says "I compassionated him, and sometimes felt a wish to console him, but...as I could not sympathize him, I had no right to withhold from him the small portion of happiness which was yet in my power to bestow." What is the distinction between compassion and sympathy in this passage? Is Victor's sense of rights and justice correct? Compare this attitude with Edgar Huntly's toward Clithero.

Nov. 22nd – Discuss the question of the ethics of Dr. Frankenstein's creation of his monster in the context of recent debates over genetically modified organisms. Should Victor be held responsible for the actions of his creature?

*Autobiography of an Ex-Coloured Man*

Nov. 29th – What is the narrator’s initial reaction to Atlanta and what does this reveal about him?
To which of the three classes of black residents in Jacksonville does the narrator fit in? What opportunities and problems does this offer for him?

Dec. 1st- This novel employs a kind of deception of its reader similar to *Fight Club*: when did you first realize that the narrator was passing as white? Also, what kind of music in today's society might correspond to the world of ragtime that the narrator plays, and the clubs and homes where he plays it?
English 104  Prof. Sayre
Attendance – Please initial next to your name
Sept. 29                  Oct. 4                     Oct. 6

Abrahamson, Benjamin D
Anderson, Jennifer C
Barrett, Amanda M
Barrett, Nathaniel R
Baumgart, Conor J
Beasley, Curtis J
Boffing, Melinda K
Clothier, Kelty E
Cranor, Tessa B
Dale, Sydney M
Davidson, Dana R
Donchess, Adam S
Fortunato, Carly A
Glenn, Jacquelyn
Goff, Matthew R
Hartvig, Olivia S
Hoenig, Turner R
Horton, Rebecca R
Hyslop, Nicole L
Johnswick, Erica Z
Lee, Daniel J
Marshall, Austin T
Martczyanov, Sasha P
Mendoza-Graves, Alejandr J
Merge, John C
Nokelby, Jessica M
Ratto, Meredith E
Ritacco, Jacquelyn J
Smith, Bradley L
Smith, Carly A
Spade, Anna R
Sykes, Alexander J
Trummel, Michael J
Ulf, Abigail E
Vuylsteke, Caitlin S
Wagner, Kendall L
Wilkinson, Kristine N
Wilson, David M
Doubles in our lives

Are you an identical twin? If not, are you acquainted with identical twins who have remained inseparable companions into their 20s?

Have you ever been mistaken for another person who looked like you? How did you react?

If you met someone who looked exactly like yourself, would you feel friendly toward this person? Why or why or not?

Have you ever had a close rivalry with a sibling, to whom you have been frequently compared by teachers, coaches, family friends or relatives?

Have you ever had a rivalry with a friend, co-worker, classmate or teammate who threatened to usurp your position among your peers? What is the best way to deal with this threat?

Alter Egos
Mimics
Gothic Doubles

Family doubles, Comic variety: The Olson Twins, the Parent Trap, Popular

My Little Twin dolls

The uncanny

Quiz for Wed. Sept. 29th on “William Wilson”

On the first page of the tale the narrator tells us: “Men usually grow base by degrees. From me, in an instant, all virtue dropped bodily as a mantle.” Provide a paraphrase of these two sentences, explaining what they mean, and propose what “instant” later in the tale, these lines might refer to.
topics for second essay due Nov. 15th

1) We have discussed some in class the folk traditions of vampire and werewolf stories, and how the novels *Fight Club* and *Edgar Huntly* transform these into original, new forms. In both novels much of the action occurs at night, and this draws upon the fact that lycanthropes (a word for were-creatures) and vampires both take on their powerful forms only at night. Describe how the novels employ these sources and what the novelists changed.

2) *The Double*, *The Double*, and *Fight Club* are all three about male protagonists who work in white collar jobs, are reluctant to commit to their girlfriends, and have acute anxieties about their masculinity and social status. Consider how these anxieties may be the cause of the psychological split that creates their doubles. In each case, the double is more successful than the singleton, either at love or at work.