Life and death are never easy, particularly on an epidemic magnitude. In this class, we turn to stories of plagues—from distant past to more recent times—to nurture resilience, to grow our ability to connect and empathize, to put our experiences in larger historical frames, to enlarge our capacity to build societies that are fairer and more just. We ask: How are fear, anxiety, and collective mourning figured in stories of plagues? How does the gothic as a genre and its demonization of the Other work its way into pandemic writing? How may the pandemic imagination connect with or detract from revolutionary sentiments? What does it mean to think across historical moments, across national and bodily borders? Why is it important to construct or offer spaces for collective mourning?


The course welcomes students in literature, single subject and creative writing concentrations, who may find joy, wisdom and solace in reading and writing alongside existing stories of plague.

**ENGLISH 481**

**MW 1:00 to 2:50 (Synchronous Hybrid)**

Dr. Chingling Wo

Meets British Lit Requirement.

Graduate students welcome.