Course Content
This course will focus on the great storytelling tradition of 19th century Europe and its stories of the ‘Marvellous’ and the ‘Fantastic’. We will see how writers of the period drew upon the myths and legends of their countries in order to create new stories which resonated far beyond their home countries.

The fairy-tale collections of Charles Perrault and the Brothers Grimm reveal the genre of the ‘Marvellous’ that underpins the 19th century European short story. Hoffmann’s ‘The Sandman’ was the first story to fuse the fairy tale to a representation of contemporary life, creating a new genre of the ‘Fantastic’, or in Sigmund Freud’s words, the ‘Uncanny’. Hoffmann’s tale directly inspired the macabre fantasies of Pushkin and Gogol in Russia and the gothic vampire tales of Gautier in France. In the later 19th century however, the ‘Fantastic’ short-story developed into a more fragmentary decadent form, instanced by the work of de l’Isle-Adam and de Maupassant. And in the work of English writers like Dickens, the horror of Hoffmann was tamed into the Victorian ghost story. By the end of the century, the ‘Marvellous’ and ‘Fantastic’ had evolved into the detective mystery, pioneered by Conan Doyle’s Sherlock Holmes, the world’s most famous detective, and the ancestor of many crime mysteries today.

1. **Introduction**: The European Storytelling Tradition

2. **France & Germany**: Charles Perrault: *Bluebeard* (1697); *Little Red Riding Hood* (1697)
   Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm: *Little Red Cap* (1812)

3. **Germany**: Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm: *Hansel and Gretel* (1812)
   *Cinderella* (1812)

4. **Germany**: ETA Hoffmann: *The Sandman* (1817)

5. **Russia**: Alexander S. Pushkin: *The Queen of Spades* (1834)
   Nikolai V. Gogol: *The Overcoat* (1842)

6. **France**: Théophile Gautier: *The Beautiful Vampire* (1836)
   Guy de Maupassant: *Night: A Nightmare* (1887)

7. **Russia and France**: Nikolai V. Gogol: *The Nose* (1835)
   Auguste Villiers de l’Isle-Adam: *The Very Image* (1883)

8. **Scotland & England**: Arthur Conan Doyle: *A Scandal in Bohemia* (1891)
   *The Speckled Band* (1892)
   Charles Dickens: *The Signal-Man* (1866)
Intended Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course students should:

- have a broad knowledge of the European storytelling tradition
- to be able to identify the tropes of different literary genres
- be familiar with some of the literary terminology used to discuss these stories