COURSE NUMBER: VR223	**COURSE TITLE:** *Arabian Nights in British Literature* 天方夜谭与英国文学
CREDIT: 4	**PREREQUISITES:** VY100
TEXTBOOKS/REQUIRED MATERIAL: ☐ Samuel Johnson, *The History of Rasselas, Prince of Abissinia*, ed. Thomas Keymer (Oxford: Oxford World Classics), 2009. ☐ William Beckford, *Vathek*, ed. Thomas Keymer (Oxford: Oxford World Classics), 2013. ☐ Additional readings will be provided	**PREPARED BY:** Matthew Risling **DATE OF PREPARATION:** 02/11/2019 **DATE OF UC APPROVAL:** May 2019
INSTRUCTOR(S): Matthew Risling	**SCIENCE/DESIGN: N/A**
CATALOG DESCRIPTION: This course examines the Arabic folktales translated as the *Arabian Nights Entertainments* (1706). They informed numerous literary genres including gothic and science fiction. Through lectures and discussions we will explore these uniquely cosmopolitan tales on their own merits and for what they say about colonial Britain's perspectives on the East.	**COURSE TOPICS:** 1. The *Arabian Nights* as a unique literary genre 2. The complex history of translating the *Arabian Nights*, and the difficulty with translation more generally. 3. Britain's rise as a global power 4. "Orientalism" and post-colonial theory 5. New approaches to the *Arabian Nights*, focussing on empathy, cosmopolitanism, and cultural exchange. 6. Comparing pre-colonial and colonial versions of the *Arabian Nights* 7. Western modernity in Eastern tales: the eighteenth-century 'Oriental Tale' as a philosophical and proto-science fiction genre 8. Eighteenth- and nineteenth-century attitudes towards luxury and consumption 9. Gothic literature 10. Romantic literature

COURSE STRUCTURE/SCHEDULE: lecture and discussion

COURSE OBJECTIVES [Course Outcomes in brackets]	This course is designed to introduce students to the unique, and uniquely cosmopolitan, stories of the *Arabian Nights Entertainments*. This course is designed to: 1. Help students appreciate these remarkable stories and their tremendous influence on English literature [1, 6, 7, 8] 2. Elucidate the history of Britain's emergence as a military and economic superpower and its corresponding shift in attitudes towards other cultures [3, 4, 6, 7, 8] 3. Introduce students to post-colonial theory, especially as it pertains to the popular, and under-theorized, eighteenth-century tales of the East [3, 4, 6, 8] 4. Explore major literary genres that emerged alongside, and in conversation with, Easter tales, including gothic tales, Romantic poetry, and science fiction [7, 9, 8] 5. Consider the choices that go into a translation and the ideological implications inherent in any translation [2] 6. Help students hone their close-reading skills by carefully considering the ideological implications inherent in reiterations of literary standards like *Aladdin* [1, 2, 4]
COURSE OUTCOMES [Student Outcomes in brackets]	After completing this course, students will be able to demonstrate the following: 1. Knowledge of the *Arabian Nights* as a unique and important literary phenomenon and its influence on the trajectory of British literature 2. Understanding England's growth from a middle power in the seventeenth century to a superpower in the nineteenth 3. Understanding of the ways in which British authors examined their own shifting economic and political institutions by way of the imaginary East 4. Understanding of post-colonial theory 5. The ability to close read a text, including the ability to draw significance from different iterations of a single story 6. The ability to pose a productive research question 7. The ability to construct a literary hypothesis based on textual evidence 8. The ability to revise a hypothesis based on textual evidence 9. The ability to construct a persuasive argument based on textual evidence 10. The ability to construct well-formed paragraphs and maintain a fluid argument
ASSESSMENT TOOLS [Course Outcomes in brackets]	Participation (10%) [all] Presentation (10%) [1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11] Short paper (15%) [3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11] In-class midterm (15%) [1, 2, 3, 5, 6] Longer term paper (25%) [7, 8, 9, 10, 11] Final exam (25%) [1, 2, 3, 5, 6]