Male Gothic	Female Gothic

ESSENTIALIZED:
- politics of identity;
- disrupt legitimacy of normative gender patterns

BASIC DEFINITION
- Oedipal: son's conflict w/authority

ELEMENTS
- Horror
- Sensation
- Irony
- unexplained supernatural
- Troubled versions of masculinity – persecution of homosexuality b/c of revolutions?
- Atmosphere: turns domestic space into a prison or banishes a disobedient/threatening female from rightful place in home
- Tone: victimizes & graphically brutalizes heroines as source of titillation & voyeuristic fascination

TEXTS
- *Monk* (mocks female gothic heroines as stalwart, stout)
- *Dr Jekyll* (male concealment)
- *Dracula* (?)

ESSENTIALIZED
- female gothic written only by women?
- b/c they absorbed in struggle for sexual & political rights

BASIC DEFINITION
- orphaned heroine search for absent mother
- simultaneously persecuted victim & courageous heroine
- pursued by feudal (patriarchal) father or his substitute
- all monitored by impeccable but ineffectual suitor

HEROINE
- Powerless, orphaned, motherless, low-born or penniless
- Transform standard romantic issues of incest, fanticide & patricide into fantasy of the nursery (creation myth/bildungsroman)
- Visualize the self: woman examined w/woman's eye
- Enjoy all adventures & alarms that traditional masculine heroes have always enjoyed (and far from home)
- Test: proves herself thru courage & self-control in face of physical dangers
- Uses sufferings as source of erotic fascination
- Property, decorum, taste in manners, social status, respectability

ELEMENTS
- Terror
- Sensibility
- poetic realism
- explained supernatural
- Atmosphere: sets action w/in intricate architechture or over perplexing terrain
- Atmosphere: reclaims home from usurping male
- Tone: concern for the powerlessness & male domination of heroines w/in rigid social & religious definitions of gender
- Emblematic character names = purity, goodness, nobility & innocence
- Stories = resemblance to fairy tale and folklore

Female Gothic TEXTS
Frankenstein (ultimate)
Mysteries of Udolpho
Northanger Abbey
Wuthering Heights
"Yellow Wallpaper"