

**HUMA 1301.005: Thrills, Chills, and Some Spills**  
**Spring 2014**

Tu-Th 11:30-12:45

JO 4.102

Professor Kenneth Brewer

**Professor Contact Information**

Kenneth Brewer

Office Phone: 972-883-3565

Email: kenneth.brewer@utdallas.edu

Office: JO 5.704

Office Hours: M 5:45-6:45; Tu-Th 10:30-11:15, and by appointment

**Teaching Assistant**

Larkin Hiott

lxh114230@utdallas.edu

**Course Description**

This course focuses on two genres of film: horror and thrillers (for the sake of brevity, “scary movies”). We will discuss the distinction between these two genres through an examination of films such as *The Silence of the Lambs*. We will examine what kinds of pleasures these films offer to viewers, and why we find these films scary/thrilling even when we know that they are “not real.” We will draw on philosophy, film history, film theory, and psychological/sociological research in order to understand how these films work and how they work on us as viewers.

**Student Learning Outcomes/Objectives**

In this course, students will:

- examine and analyze a variety of works from the humanities, and
- apply considered analysis and respond to works in the humanities as examples of human expression and aesthetic and philosophical principles.

By the end of this course, students should demonstrate:

- an ability to analyze and critically evaluate a variety of works from the humanities works in the context of culture, society, and values;
- an ability to compare and contrast the works with each other; and
- an understanding of the relationship between the structure of the works under analysis and their meaning;
- an ability to analyze the genres of horror and thrillers using the techniques of various humanistic disciplines.

**Required Textbooks and Materials**

Rick Worland, *The Horror Film: An Introduction*

Noël Carroll, *The Philosophy of Horror*

We will also be reading Robert Louis Stevenson's *Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*. This text is available at no cost on the Web; however, if you wish to obtain a copy, the Signet Classics edition is inexpensive and of good quality.

These texts are available through various local bookstores. Electronic editions are acceptable.

### e-Learning

We will use the eLearning site for the course for quizzes and (usually) submissions of short writing assignments. Get used to checking the site daily.

### Agenda

Worland = *The Horror Film: An Introduction*

Carroll = *The Philosophy of Horror*

e-Learning = posted on course e-Learning site

Date	Unit	Film	Reading Due
Tu January 14	<b>Horror or Thriller?</b>	<i>The Silence of the Lambs</i> (Demme, 1991)  Screened in class	
Th January 16			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Worland 7-18</li> <li>• Carroll 12-24</li> </ul>
Tu January 21			Carroll 24-42
Th January 23			Jancovich, "Genre Classifications and Cultural Distinctions in the Mediation of <i>The Silence of the Lambs</i> " (e-Learning)
Tu January 28  Exam 1 at Testing Center	<b>The Aesthetics of Scary Movies</b>		

<b>Date</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>Film</b>	<b>Reading Due</b>
Th January 29	<i>Plotting: The Classic Overreacher Plot</i>	<i>Frankenstein</i> (Whale, 1931)  Screened in class	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carroll 118-25</li> <li>• Worland 25-75</li> </ul>
Tu February 4			Worland 157-75
Th February 6	<i>Plotting: The Modern Overreacher Plot</i>	<i>The Blair Witch Project</i> (Myrick and Sánchez, 1999)	Carroll 144-57
Tu February 11			Russin and Downs, "Fear and Loathing" (e-Learning)
Th February 13	<i>Plotting: The Discovery Plot</i>	<i>The Exorcist</i> (Friedkin, 1973)	Carroll 97-118
Tu February 18			
Exam 2 at Testing Center			
Th February 20		<i>Shutter Island</i> (Scorcese, 2010)	Worland 76-117
Tu February 25	<i>Techniques: Suspense; Shock Cuts; Scary Spaces; Gore</i>		Carroll 128-44
Th February 27	<i>Genreification: The Serial Killer in Scary Movies</i>	<i>Psycho</i> (Hitchcock, 1960)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Worland 18-22</li> <li>• Williams, "Learning to Scream" (e-Learning)</li> </ul>
Tu March 4		<i>The Texas Chain Saw Massacre</i> (Hooper, 1974)	Worland 208-26

Date	Unit	Film	Reading Due
Th March 6 Exam 3 at Testing Center			
Tu March 18		<i>Halloween</i> (Carpenter, 1978)  Screened in class	
Th March 20			Worland 227-42
Tu March 25			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sapolsky and Molitor, "Content Trends in Contemporary Horror Films" (e-Learning)</li> <li>• Cherry, "Refusing to Refuse to Look: Female Viewers and the Horror Film" (e-Learning)</li> </ul>
Tu March 25	<b>"It's Only a Movie": Why are We Scared?</b>		Carroll 60-88
Th March 27	<b>Why Do We Like Scary Movies?</b>		Zinoman, "The Critique of Pure Horror" (e-Learning)
Tu April 1	<i>Allegory</i>	<i>Invasion of the Body Snatchers</i> (Siegel, 1956)	Worland 193-207

Date	Unit	Film	Reading Due
Th April 3			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carroll 195-206</li> <li>• Oliver and Sanders, "The Appeal of Horror and Suspense" (e-Learning)</li> </ul>
Tu April 8	<i>Psychology</i>		Carroll 158-95
Th April 10 Exam 4 at Testing Center			
Tu April 15	<b>Issues in Film Adaptation</b>		Stevenson, <i>Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde</i>
Th April 17			Rose, "Transformations of Terror" (e-Learning)
Tu April 22		<i>Fight Club</i> (Fincher, 1999)	
Th April 24	<b>Should We Watch Scary Movies? The Moral Debate</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DiMuzio, "The Immorality of Horror Films" (e-Learning)</li> <li>• Kreider, "The Virtue of Horror Films" (e-Learning)</li> </ul>
Tu April 29		<i>Cabin in the Woods</i> (Goddard, 2012)	
Th May 1 Exam 5 at Testing Center			

## **Assignments & Grading Policy**

Below are the required assignments for this course. I will provide more detailed information as the due dates approach. Please contact the TA with any questions you may have about assignments.

### Participation 10%

Participation includes attending class, participating in discussions and in-class activities, and visiting me in my office as often as possible. The majority of classroom time will consist of discussion: for the class to be rewarding, it is imperative that you do the reading and come to class prepared to talk and listen actively. In writings and exams, you are expected to draw on class discussion. Participation in class activities is necessary to pass this class. Promptness and regular attendance are essential and will affect your grade. You must arrive, prepared, to class on time and stay for the class period.

*Note on laptops etc:* If you are using your laptop or phone for non-class related activities, it is really obvious to me and to your classmates. Your participation and overall class grade will suffer accordingly. Quizzes will often be given at the end of a class meeting to test comprehension of the material.

### Short Writing Assignments and Quizzes 30%

Throughout the semester you will be asked to complete short writing assignments in class or through eLearning. Please complete them on time so that the instructor can incorporate your ideas into the class. Quizzes will be given online and in class.

### Exams 60%

There will be five exams over the course the semester (due dates are listed on the Agenda). These exams will be administered through the UTD Testing Center.

Exam 1: 10%

Exam 2: 15%

Exam 3: 10%

Exam 4: 15%

Exam 5: 10%

The format and content of the exams will be discussed at a later date.

### **Late Work**

Online quizzes, exams, and short writing assignments must be submitted by the due date and time, or they will not be accepted.

You are allowed ONE makeup of a missed online quiz or short writing assignment, no questions asked, during the semester.

You are allowed ONE makeup of a missed in-class assignment/quiz, no questions asked, during the semester.

The assignment must be made up during the TA's office hours, in the presence of the TA.

### **Avoid Plagiarizing by Accident!**

Using another's ideas or language without acknowledging the source or passing off another's ideas or language as your own is plagiarism and will not be tolerated. Students often plagiarize without intending to because they are unsure about how to cite sources. Plagiarism by accident is still plagiarism (and will be punished as such), so please feel free to come see me or your TA if you are unsure about how to cite sources. (see full syllabus for policy on Academic Integrity).

### **Student AccessAbility Services**

If you are a student with a disability and would like to see me to discuss special academic accommodations, please contact me after class or during my office hours. For more information about AccessAbility Services, visit the website: <http://www.utdallas.edu/studentaccess/> or call 972-883- 2098. (see full syllabus for more detailed information).

### **Other Policies**

The policies that comprise the rest of the syllabus may be accessed online: <http://provost.utdallas.edu/home/syllabus-policies-and-procedures-text>