

## **HUMA 1301: Exploration of the Humanities**

Fall 2013

MC 2.410

M-W 4:00-5:15

Professor Kenneth Brewer

### **Professor Contact Information**

Kenneth Brewer

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### **Teaching Assistant**

### **Course Description**

What do we find scary and why? Why are we frightened by “scary” stories even when we know that they are “not real”? How does horror work in different media, such as print and film? This course focuses on classics of suspense and fear (such as *Frankenstein*) and more recent examples of the genre (such as *Ringu*). Philosophical, aesthetic, psychological, anthropological, and sociological frameworks will be applied to these works in order to discover what we find truly frightening and why.

### **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 genre of the horror film 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 for no cost on the Web; however, if you wish to order a copy, the Signet Classics edition is inexpensive and of good quality.

These texts are available through various local bookstores.

### E-Learning

We will use the E-Learning 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*

	Unit	Film	Reading Due
M August 26	<b>What is a Horror Movie?</b>	<i>The Silence of the Lambs</i> (Demme, 1991)  Screened in class	
W August 28			Worland 7-18
W September 4			Jancovich, "Genre Classifications and Cultural Distinctions in the Mediation of <i>The Silence of the Lambs</i> " (Handout)
M September 9			Carroll 12-34
W September 11	<b>The Horror Film: Aesthetics and History</b>		Worland 25-75

	Unit	Film	Reading Due
M September 16	<i>The "Overreacher Plot": The Classic Version</i>	<i>Frankenstein</i> (Whale, 1931)  Screened in class	Carroll 118-25
W September 19			Worland 157-75
M September 23	<i>The "Overreacher Plot": The Modern Version</i>	<i>The Blair Witch Project</i> (Myrick and Sánchez, 1999)	Carroll 144-57
W September 25			Worland 76-117
M September 30	<i>Some Techniques: Plotting Horror, Scary Spaces and Cinematic Shock</i>		Russin and Downs (Handout)
W October 2	<i>The "Discovery Plot"</i>	<i>The Exorcist</i> (Friedkin, 1973)	Carroll 97-118
M October 7 MIDTERM EXAM			
W October 9	<i>"Genreification": The Serial Killer</i>	<i>Psycho</i> (Hitchcock, 1960)	Worland 18-22  Williams, "Learning to Scream" (Handout)
M October 14		<i>The Texas Chainsaw Massacre</i> (Hooper, 1974)	Worland 208-26
W October 16	<b>"It's Only a Movie": Why are We Scared?</b>		Carroll 60-88

	Unit	Film	Reading Due
M October 21		<i>The Shining</i> (Kubrick, 1980)	Sapolsky and Molitor, "Content Trends in Contemporary Horror Films" (Handout)
W October 23	<b>Why Do We Like Horror?</b>		Zinoman, "The Critique of Pure Horror" (Handout)
M October 28	<i>Historical Theories: Horror as Allegory</i>	<i>Invasion of the Body Snatchers</i> (Siegel, 1956)	Worland 193-207
W October 30		<i>Night of the Living Dead</i> (Romero, 1968)	David Chalmers, "Zombies on the Web" <a href="http://consc.net/zombies.html">http://consc.net/zombies.html</a>
M November 4	<i>Psychological and Sociological Theories</i>	<i>Halloween</i> (Carpenter, 1978)	Worland 227-42
W November 6			Oliver and Sanders, "The Appeal of Horror and Suspense" (Handout)  Cherry, "Refusing to Refuse to Look: Female Viewers and the Horror Film" (Handout)
M November 11	<i>Against Psychology</i>		Carroll 88-96
W November 13			Carroll 159-95

	<b>Unit</b>	<b>Film</b>	<b>Reading Due</b>
M November 18	<i>The Theories Applied</i>	<i>Ringu</i> (Nakata, 1998)	Cantor and Oliver, "Developmental Differences in Responses to Horror"
W November 20	<b>Issues in Film Adaptation</b>		Stevenson, <i>Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde</i>
M December 2		<i>Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde</i> (Fleming, 1941)	Carroll 128-44
W December 4	<b>Should We Watch Horror? The Moral Debate</b>	<i>Se7en</i> (Fincher, 1995)	
M December 9			DiMuzio, "The Immorality of Horror Films" (Handout)  Kreider, "The Virtue of Horror Films" (Handout)
W December 11	Review for Final		Carroll 195-214

Final Exam Date to be Announced

### **Assignments & Grading Policy**

Below are the required assignments for this course. I will provide more detailed information as the due dates approach. Please feel free to contact me 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 (for example, you laugh at the wrong times). Your participation and overall class grade will suffer accordingly.

### Short Writing Assignments and Quizzes 40%

Throughout the semester you will be asked to complete short writing assignments and submit them via 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 30%

Midterm: 15%; Final: 15%

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

### Class Wiki Project (20%)

The specific requirements for the Project will be discussed at a later date.

### **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>