

Phil ###: Intro to Philosophy of Art – The Philosophy of Horror

Professor: Duane Long Jr.

Class: TR 2-3:15

Office: WAG 309

Office Hours: M/W 12:15-1:15

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Course Description

This course is intended as an introduction to the philosophy of art by way of study of one genre of art, namely horror. We will look at proposed definitions of horror and of the elements and logic of horror, then read and watch classic and contemporary examples of horror and analyze them through the theoretical tools we have developed.

Texts:

Noel Carroll, *The Philosophy of Horror: Or, Paradoxes of the Heart*, USA: Routledge, 1990.

Cynthia Freeland, *The Naked and the Undead: Evil and the Appeal of Horror*, USA: Westview Press, 2000.

Other readings will be made available on Blackboard

Grades: 3 papers. Paper 1: 20%, Papers 2 and 3: 40% each

Course Expectations

1. Attendance and punctuality are expected. Students arriving more than 10 minutes late will not be allowed to join the class that day. Students may not leave lecture early unless they have received permission from the instructor ahead of time.

2. Turn off or silence electronic devices and other distractions and put them away before class begins. A student caught texting, tweeting, IMing, etc. faces the following sanctions:

1st offense: Student may hand over the device to the professor until the end of class or leave the lecture.

2nd+ offenses: Student will be asked to leave the class and be deducted 1/3 letter grade from their final course grade.

3. Any student who intentionally, knowingly, recklessly, or negligently misses or disregards the due date, topic or assignment of course material or fails to turn it in on time does not have a legitimate excuse or justification for not meeting the course requirements.

4. Make-up exams will only be given if the exam was missed for extraordinary, unforeseeable documented circumstances for which the student was faultless.

Course schedule (readings should be done in advance of the listed class period)

Day 1 – Intro

Day 2 – Carroll, pp. 1-27

Day 3 – Carroll, pp. 27-58

Day 4 – Hills, “An Event-Based Definition of Art-Horror”

Day 5 – Walpole, *The Castle of Otranto*

Day 6 –Freeland, “Horror and Art-Dread”

Day 7 – Freeland, TNAU, pp. 1-21

Day 8 – Carroll, pp. 59-96

Day 9 – Movie Day: *Frankenstein*

Day 10 – Finish movie and discuss

Day 11 – Solomon, “Review of *Paradoxes of the Heart*”, Carroll, “Reply to Solomon”

Day 12 – Freeland, TNAU, pp. 25-54

Day 13 – Poe, “The Cask of Amontillado”, “The Pit and the Pendulum”, “The Masque of the Red Death”

Day 14 – Freeland, TNAU, pp. 123-159

Day 15 – Lovecraft, “The Music of Erich Zann”, “The Rats in the Walls”, “The Colour Out of Space”, “The Dunwich Horror”

Day 16 – Freeland, TNAU, pp. 215-240

Day 17 – Movie Day: *Alien*

Day 18 – Finish movie and discuss

Day 19 - Tallon, “Through A Mirror, Darkly: Art-Horror as a Medium for Moral Reflection”

Day 20 – DiMuzio, “The Immorality of Horror Movies”, Kreider, “Reply to DiMuzio”

Day 21 – Movie Day: *The Thing*

Day 22 – Finish movie; Cowie, “Aristotelian Reflections on Horror and Tragedy in *An American Werewolf in London* and *The Sixth Sense*”

Day 23 – Clover, “Her Body, Himself”

Day 24 – Freeland, TNAU, pp. 55-86

Day 25 – Movie Day: *The Descent*

Day 26 – Finish movie and discuss

Day 27 – Freeland, “Feminist Frameworks for Horror Films”

Day 28 –Carroll, pp. 158-188

Day 29 – Carroll, pp. 189-214

Day 30 – Neill, “On a Paradox of the Heart”, Carroll, “Reply to Neill”, Feagin, “Monsters, Disgust, and Fascination”, Carroll, “Reply to Feagin”

Policy statements

- Student Accommodations UT Austin provides all reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities or special needs. You must speak with the University’s SSD department to document your necessary accommodations and speak to me as early in the semester as possible. Class accommodations will only be made with SSD documentation. For more information, contact SSD at 471-6259 or go to <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/>
- UT Honor Code The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.
- Academic dishonesty If you cheat, plagiarize, or commit any form of academic dishonesty on any work assigned for this course, you will get an F in the course and I will report the incident to the Student Judicial Committee. Scholastic dishonesty includes any kind of cheating or collaboration on tests, submitting work that is a) is not your own and/or b) not accurately attributed to its source, or facilitating other students engaging in these activities. If I suspect dishonesty, I reserve the right to re-examine students. For more information, contact Student Judicial Services at 471-2841, or go to <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/scholdis.php>
- Religious holidays If you need to miss a class or other required class activity for the observance of a religious holiday, you must notify me at least 14 days in advance so we can make alternative arrangements. Note: the University's Religious Days Policy is online: http://www.utexas.edu/provost/policies/religious_holidays/

Outside Horror Movies (Options for use in Paper #3)

1940s and before

The Phantom of the Opera

Nosferatu

Dracula

Frankenstein

The Wolfman

The Mummy

1950s

Them

The Thing From Another World

Godzilla

Invasion of the Body Snatchers

The Blob

Creature From the Black Lagoon

1960s

Village of the Damned
The Birds
Night of the Living Dead
Psycho
Blood Feast
Two Thousand Maniacs
Color Me Blood Red
Rosemary's Baby

1970s

The Exorcist
Texas Chainsaw Massacre
Jaws
Trilogy of Terror
Carrie
The Omen
The Hills Have Eyes
Rabid
Halloween
Alien
The Amityville Horror
Phantasm
I Spit On Your Grave
The Brood
The Last House On The Left

1980s

Friday the 13th
The Shining
An American Werewolf in London
The Howling
Poltergeist
The Thing
Cujo
A Nightmare On Elm Street
The Fly
Hellraiser
The Lost Boys
Child's Play
Pumpkinhead
Children of the Corn

1990s

It
Jacob's Ladder
Candyman
Carnosaur
Wes Craven's New Nightmare
Candyman 2: Farewell to the Flesh
Scream
Event Horizon
Ringu
Audition
Blair Witch Project
In the Mouth of Madness

2000s-Present

Dagon
Session 9
May
The Ring
Behind the Mask: The Rise of Leslie Vernon
Bug
High Tension
Saw
A Tale of Two Sisters
The Descent
House of 1000 Corpses
Splinter
Splice
Grave Encounters
Apt 143
[Rec]
The Cell
Paranormal Activity
The Woman In Black
The Strangers