

Syllabus

Introduction to Horror Films BTP2BR_T_36

György Kalmár

Time: Wed. 14-15.40

Place: room 54.

The aim of the course is to give an introduction to the genre of the horror film, together with the different schools of interpretation. We shall go through the main sub-genres and the main thematic focus-points. Together with each film we shall read theoretical and/or critical texts that support interpretation. During the seminars we shall do theoretically-informed close-readings.

Evaluation: End-term test

Readings: Most texts listed below can be found on Library Genesis, <http://gen.lib.rus.ec/> or Anna's Archive at <https://annas-archive.org/>

Proposed schedule:

Week	Date	Topic
1.	10/ Sept	Introduction to the genre of horror: Theoretical problems Readings: Freud, Sigmund. "The Uncanny"; McGee, Chris. "Reading the horrible body" Recommended readings: Tudor, Andrew. "Introduction: Horror-Movie Histories." <i>Monsters and Mad Scientists</i> . Oxford, Cambridge: Blackwell, 1989. (1-16.) Film: <i>Nosferatu</i> (Murnau, 1922)
2.	17/ Sept	Of wolfs and men: The wolfman as doppelganger Film: <i>The Wolf Man</i> (George Waggner, 1941) <i>The Wolfman</i> (Joe Johnston, 2010.) Reading: Schneider, Steven Jay. "Manifestations of the Literary Double in Modern Horror Cinema." <i>Horror Film and Psychoanalysis</i> . Cambridge UP: Cambridge, 2004. (106-121.)
3.	24/ Sept	The legendary undead: The vampire Film: <i>Dracula</i> (Tod Browning, 1931), <i>Dracula</i> (Francis Ford Coppola, 1992.) Reading: Stevenson, John Allen. "A Vampire in the Mirror: The Sexuality of <i>Dracula</i> ." <i>PLMA</i> Vol. 103, No. 2 (MAR., 1988), pp. 139-149.
4.	1/ Oct	The horror of science: Frankenstein Film: <i>Frankenstein</i> (James Whale, 1931), <i>Frankenstein</i> (aka. <i>Mary Shelley's Frankenstein</i>)(Kenneth Branagh, 1994) Reading: Picart, Caroline. "Visualizing the Monstrous in Frankenstein Films." <i>Pacific Coast Philology</i> , Vol. 35, No. 1 (2000), pp. 17-34.
5.	8/ Oct	"Fleshtisism": Zombies and other flesh eaters Film: <i>The Night of the Living Dead</i> (Romero, 1968), <i>28 Days Later</i> (Danny Boyle, 2002) Reading: Kyle Bishop. "Raising the Dead" <i>Journal of Popular Film and Television</i> , 2006.
6.	15/ Oct	Horribly Big Things Film: <i>King Kong</i> (1933), <i>King Kong</i> (Peter Jackson, 2005)

		Reading: Robert Spadoni. "The Uncanny Body of Early Sound Film." <i>Uncanny Bodies</i> . U of California P, 2007. 8-31.
7.	22/ Oct	Autumn break (no class, no horror)
8.	29/ Oct	The demonic other Film: <i>The Exorcist</i> (William Friedkin, 1968), <i>The Omen</i> (Richard Donner, 1976) Reading: Barbara Creed: "Woman as Possessed Monster: <i>The Exorcist</i> ." in <i>The Monstrous Feminine</i> . 31-42. (Available on-line on Google Books) Recommended: <i>Rosemary's Baby</i> (Polanski, 1968)
9.	5/ Nov	Science Fiction Horror Film: <i>The Fly</i> (Cronenberg, 1986), <i>Alien</i> (Ridley Scott, 1979) Reading: William Beard: "The Fly" In: <i>The Artist as Monster. The Cinema of David Cronenberg</i> . (Available on-line on Google Books.) Linda Badley: "The Darker Side of Genius." <i>Horror Film and Psychoanalysis</i> . Cambridge UP: Cambridge, 2004. 222-240. Recommended: <i>Invasion of the Body Snatchers</i> (1956), other films of the <i>Alien</i> franchise
10.	12/ Nov	The genre of the slasher movie Film: <i>Halloween</i> (Carpenter, 1978), <i>Nightmare on Elm Street</i> (Wes Craven, 1984) Reading: Clover, Carol J. "Her Body, Himself: Gender in the Slasher Film." <i>Horror, the Film Reader</i> . Ed. Mark Jankovich. London: Routledge, 2002. (77-89.)
11.	19/ Nov	Post-modern horror Films: <i>From Dusk Till Dawn</i> (Rodriguez, 1996), <i>Scream</i> (Wes Craven, 1996) Reading: Dedi Hubbard. "Not In My Moovie: The Slash/her, Scream, and Spectatorship" http://kweerious.com/writing/essays/scream/
12.	26/ Nov	Postfeminist body horror Film: <i>The Substance</i> (Coralie Fargeat, 2025)
13.	3/ Dec	End-Term Test
14.	10/ Dec	EVALUATION

Recommended Readings:

Noel Carroll. *The Philosophy of Horror*. Routledge, 1990.

Metropolis 2006/1 - A horrorfilm. (available online at:

<http://metropolis.org.hu/?pid=17&iid=19>)