

Syllabus
Introduction to Horror Films BTP2BR_T_36

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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	<i>Introduction to the genre of horror: Theoretical problems</i> 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	<i>Of wolves and men: The wolfman as doppelganger</i> Film: <i>The Wolf Man</i> (George Wagner, 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	<i>The legendary undead: The vampire</i> 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	<i>The horror of science: Frankenstein</i> 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	<i>"Fleshtivism": Zombies and other flesh eaters</i> 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	<i>Horribly Big Things</i> 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	<i>Autumn break (no class, no horror)</i>
8.	29/ Oct	<p><i>The demonic other</i></p> <p>Film: <i>The Exorcist</i> (William Friedkin, 1968), <i>The Omen</i> (Richard Donner, 1976)</p> <p>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)</p> <p>Recommended: <i>Rosemary's Baby</i> (Polanski, 1968)</p>
9.	5/ Nov	<p><i>Science Fiction Horror</i></p> <p>Film: <i>The Fly</i> (Cronenberg, 1986), <i>Alien</i> (Ridley Scott, 1979)</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Recommended: <i>Invasion of the Body Snatchers</i> (1956), other films of the <i>Alien</i> franchise</p>
10.	12/ Nov	<p><i>The genre of the slasher movie</i></p> <p>Film: <i>Halloween</i> (Carpenter, 1978), <i>Nightmare on Elm Street</i> (Wes Craven, 1984)</p> <p>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.)</p>
11.	19/ Nov	<p><i>Post-modern horror</i></p> <p>Films: <i>From Dusk Till Dawn</i> (Rodriguez, 1996), <i>Scream</i> (Wes Craven, 1996)</p> <p>Reading: Dedi Hubbard. "Not In My Moovie: The Slash/her, Scream, and Spectatorship" http://kweerious.com/writing/essays/scream/</p>
12.	26/ Nov	<p><i>Postfeminist body horror</i></p> <p>Film: <i>The Substance</i> (Coralie Fargeat, 2025)</p>
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&id=19>)