L237 Horror Movies

Mikita Brottman, Ph.D
W 9:00 am - 11:45 am BR 320

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Class size: 50

Course Description
In this course, we will examine the origins and development of American horror cinema over the last century. Screenings of key films and readings and the discussion of influential criticism will highlight psychoanalytical concepts as repression and displacement within the specific genre of the horror film as it engages with issues of gender, sexuality, race, and class. We will pay particular attention to the way in which horror films signal anxieties associated with the American family and the roles played by its members. We will consider how has the family been imagined in these films, and to what political, cultural, and ideological ends? We will also consider the way in which the horror movie negotiates our relationship with the human body. Films will be studied in their cultural contexts, allowing us to understand how horror films are frequently a reflection of human social and cultural concerns.

Course Grading

Since this is a lecture class, much of the work will be on Moodle. Each student must post a paragraph on Moodle every week BEFORE MIDNIGHT ON SUNDAY. These posts MUST be AT LEAST 10 lines long and will count for 20% of the final grade. There will be two multiple-choice quizzes, each worth 20%, and a final in-class written exam worth 40%.

| 2 Quizzes: | 40 |
| Moodle posts: | 30 |
| Final Exam: | 30 |
| Total: | 100 |

| 95-100=A+ | 66-70=C+ |
| 90-95=A | 60-65=C |
| 86-90=A- | 56-60=C- |
| 80-85=B+ | 50-55=D+ |
| 76-80=B | 46-50=D |
| 70-75=B- | 40-45=D- |
Required Reading
Other texts available as weblinks.

Weekly Schedule

(1) September 1
Course Introduction
Screening: *The American Nightmare* (documentary)

(2) September 8
Film: *Freaks*, Tod Browning, (1932)
Reading: Brottman, 1. *Freaks*: Carnivalizing the Taboo, pp. 15-49.

(3) September 15
Film: *Cat People* (Jacques Tourneur, 1942)
Reading: Tim Dirks, *Cat People* (1942), AMC Film Site

(4) September 22
Read: Robin Wood, *An Introduction to the American Horror Film* (pdf)
Lecture Week
Quiz 1

(5) September 29
Film: *The Tingler*, William Castle (1959)
Reading: Brottman, 2. Ritual, Tension and Relief, pp. 50-66.

(6) October 6
Film: *Psycho* (Alfred Hitchcock, 1960)
Reading: Tim Dirks, *Psycho* (1960), AMC Film Site

(7) October 13
Lecture Week
Read:

*Fall Break*

(8) October 27
Film: *Blood Feast*, Herschell Gordon Lewis (1963)
Reading: Brottman, 3. "There Never Was a Party Like This", pp 67-78.

(9) November 3
Film: *Night of the Living Dead* (George Romero, 1968)
Reading: Brottman, "Improper Burials, Unburied Memories" (pdf)
(10) November 10
Lecture
Quiz

(11) November 17
Film: *Rosemary's Baby* (Roman Polanski, 1968)
Reading: Tim Dirks, *Rosemary's Baby (1968)*, AMC Film Site

(12) November 24
Thanksgiving Break: No Class

(13) December 1
Film: *Texas Chainsaw Massacre* (Tobe Hooper, 1974)
Reading: Brottman, 5. Once Upon a Time in Texas, pp. 96-112.

(14) December 8
Film: *The Shining* (Stanley Kubrick, 1980)
Reading, Tim Dirks, *The Shining (1980)*, AMC Film Site

(15) December 15
Final Exam

ADA Compliance Statement
The LRC recommends the following statement for use on course syllabi:

Learning Resource Center ADA Compliance Statement Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the instructor privately to discuss specific needs. Please contact the Learning Resource Center at 410-225-2416, in Bunting 458, to establish eligibility and coordinate reasonable accommodations. For additional information please refer to: http://www.mica.edu/LRC

Health and Safety Compliance

From the Office of Environmental Health and Safety (EHS)

It is the responsibility of faculty and students to practice health and safety guidelines relevant to their individual activities, processes, and to review MICA's Emergency Action Plan and attend EHS training. It is each faculty member's responsibility to coordinate with the EHS Office to ensure that all risks associated with their class activities are identified and to assure that their respective classroom procedures mirror the EHS and Academic Department guidelines. Each of these policies and procedures must be followed by all students and faculty. Most importantly, faculty are to act in accordance with all safety compliance, state and federal, as employees of this college and are expected to act as examples of how to create art in a way to minimize risk, and reduce harm to themselves and the environment. Faculty must identify, within each art making process, and require personal protection equipment use, by each student for each class, when applicable. Students are required to purchase personal protection equipment appropriate to their major. Those students who do not have the proper personal protection equipment will not be permitted to attend class until safe measures and personal protection is in place.