

Fall 2003  
***Film 162: The Horror Film***  
Tues/Thurs 2-3.15,  
Screenings: TH 5.30-8PM  
Lafayette 207

Prof Tony Magistrale  
Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday 4-5:30, 301 Old Mill  
Phone: 656-4039

Prof Hilary Neroni  
Office Hours: Wed 10-12, Thurs 4-5:30, 311 Old Mill  
Phone: 656-1356

**Required Books** (on sale at the bookstore and on reserve at the library):

Mark Jancovich's *Horror: The Film Reader*  
Yvonne Tasker's *The Silence of the Lambs*

**Grade Breakdown:** Writing Assignments: 1/3 each; Mandatory attendance for classes (more than 3 absences will lower your composite grade); film screenings: each Thursday, 5.30->8 PM, 207 LAF. If you cannot view the film at this screening, which is highly recommended, you are nonetheless responsible for renting it or viewing it at the library before the next class meeting on Tuesday.

**Assignment Descriptions:**

A five-page analysis paper dealing with an extremely close explication of a 2-3 minute scene in one of the films studied in the course. This selection should not be a duplication of any scene selected for classroom discussion. This writing exercise must not only analyze the scene itself, but also place it in the larger context of the rest of the film, and/or the theoretical reading discussed in class.

A ten-page collaboration between two students in the class. This joint writing/filming/creative endeavor will have at its center the course material. The sole restriction is that the project should focus on a SINGLE aspect of the course: e.g., the evolution of the monster, the nature of the horror mise-en-scene, the representation of gender.

A comprehensive take-home final examination distributed the last day of class.

**Week One: Gothic History: Tracing the Tale of Terror**

Sept 2 Introduction

Sept 4 Christoph Gruneneberg's "Unsolved Mysteries" (online reserve)

**Screening:** *Nosferatu, eine Symphonie des Grauens (Nosferatu, a Symphony of Terror, Germany, F.W. Murnau, 1922, 94 min)*

**Week Two: Genre History: The Horror Film in Cinematic Context**

Sept 9 Reading: “General Introduction” (HR: 1-19); Andrew Tudor’s “Why Horror?” (HR: 47-55).

Sept 11 Reading: Paul O’Flinn’s “Production and reproduction” (HR: 105-113)  
**Screening:** *Frakenstein (USA, James Whale, 1931, 71 min)*

**Week Three: The Psychology of the Horror Film**

Sept 16 Reading: Freud’s “Uncanny” (online reserve)

Sept 18 Reading: Linda Williams’ “Learning to Scream” (HR: 163-168)  
**Screening:** *Psycho (USA, Alfred Hitchcock, 1960, 109 min)*

**Week Four: The Psychology of the Devil**

Sept 23 Reading: Ernest Jones “The Devil” (online reserve)

Sept 25 Reading: Robin Wood’s “The American Nightmare” (HR: 25-32); **Screening:** *The Exorcist (USA, William Friedkin, 1973, 122 min)*

**Week Five: Representations of Gender and the Family**

Sept 30 Reading: Brigid Cherry’s “Refusing to refuse to look” (HR: 169-178)

Oct 2 Reading Carol Clover’s “Her body, himself” (HR: 77-89)  
**Screening:** *The Texas Chain Saw Massacre (USA, Tobe Hooper, 1974, 83 min)*

**Week Six: Representations of Gender**

Oct 7 Reading: Yyvonne Tasker’s *The Silence of the Lambs*

Oct 9 Reading: Yyvonne Tasker’s *The Silence of the Lambs*  
Mark Jancovich’s “Genre classifications” (HR: 151-161)  
**Screening:** *The Silence of the Lambs (USA, Jonathan Demme, 1991, 118 min)*

**Week Seven: The Return of the Repressed**

Oct 14 Reading: Noel Carrol’s “Why Horror?” (HR: 33-45)

Oct 16 Reading, Fredric Jameson’s “Historicism in *The Shining*” (ON LINE)

**Screening: *The Shining* (UK, Stanley Kubrick, 1980, 119 min)**

**Week Eight: The Vampire**

Oct 21 Reading: Rhona Berenstein's "The marketing and reception of classic horror cinema" (HR: 135-149); Linda Williams' "When the woman looks" (HR: 58-66)

**Oct 23 Screening: *Dracula* (USA, Tod Browning, 1931, 75 min)  
AND *Buffy* episode (40 min). ANALYSIS PAPER DUE AT CLASS TIME**

**Week Nine: The Horror of the Body**

Oct 28 Reading: Robert Haas, "The Cronenberg Monster: Literature, Science and Psychology in the Cinema of Horror" (ON LINE)

**Oct 30 Screening: *The Fly* (USA, David Cronenberg, 1996, 95 min)**

**Week Ten: The Horror of Place**

Nov 4 Reading: TBA

Nov 6 Screening: *The Wicker Man* (UK, Robin Hardy, 1973, 102 min)

**Week Eleven: Technology of Terror**

Nov 11 Reading: Joan Hawkin's "Sleaze mania, Euro-trash, and high art" (HR: 126-134)

**Nov 13 Screening: *The Ring* (USA/Japan, Gore Verbinski, 2002, 115 min)**

**Week Twelve: The Object**

Nov 18: Reading: Barbara Creed's "Horror and the Monstrous-Feminine" (HR: 67-76)

**Nov 20 Screening: *Alien* (UK, Ridley Scott, 1979, 117 min)**

**Week Thirteen: The Terror of YOUR Family**

Nov 25 Reading: NO READING ASSIGNMENT. TOO MUCH ENERGY GETTING TO GRANDMA'S HOUSE AND DIGESTING THE BIRD.

Nov 27 NO CLASS THANKSGIVING

**Week Fourteen:**

Dec 2 Reading: Peter Hutchings' "The problem of British horror" (HR: 115-123) and other reading TBA

Dec 4 Screening: *A Clockwork Orange* (UK, Stanley Kubrick, 1971, 137 min).  
COLLABORATIVE PAPER DUE AT CLASS TIME

**Week Fifteen:**

Dec 9: Discussion of Kubrick  
FINAL EXAM DISTRIBUTED

**Week Sixteen:**

DEC. 16: Final Exam Due @ Noon 311 or 301 Old Mill