

DC 370 Topics: Psychotic Women
Winter Quarter 2016
Wednesdays, 1:30 – 4:45
CDM 708

Instructor: Shayna Connelly

Office: CDM 504

Office hours: Office Hours: W 11 -12:30,
4:45 – 5:15 & R 4:45 – 5:30

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The intersection between mental instability and horror has a long history in cinema, with female protagonists often straddling the line between insanity and supernatural occurrence. Starting with the film *Gaslight* the class will explore hauntings and horror through female protagonists. Students will also develop creative work utilizing techniques that create dread, fear or disgust in the audience. The course will look at the power of belief, the allure of fear in entertainment and the relationship between cinema, history and popular culture.

PREREQUISITE: NONE

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- To understand our attraction to dread, fear and disgust and why supernatural stories endure;
- To analyze cinematic techniques that inspire dread;
- To explore the relationship between cinema and culture through supernatural beliefs;
- To understand Freud's concept of *The Uncanny*, Derrida's 'hauntology', Freud's 'art-dread' and the role of low-brow & high-brow culture in the discussion of the supernatural;
- To apply horror tropes and cinematic techniques in creative work that impacts an audience.

TEXTBOOKS AND READINGS:

House of Psychotic Women by Kier-La Janisse

Additional required handouts are listed on the syllabus and available on d2l.

GRADING

Grades will be given for each assignment. Late work will not be accepted for grading. An assignment worth 10 points (10%) is equal to one full letter grade. In my experience, students who neglect to turn in even one assignment have difficulty passing the class. Extra credit (up to a letter grade per assignment) will be given to students who meet with the instructor during office hours to get individual feedback of their work.

GRADE BREAKDOWN:

Online Discussion	20%
Fear Paper	5%
Scene analysis	15%
Midterm creative assignment	25%
Final (paper <u>or</u> short film)	35%

- Research paper: (proposal 10%, rough draft 15%, final draft 10%)
- Horror short: (pre-production 10%, rough cut 15%, fine cut w/sound design 10%)

A = 100 – 93, A- = 92 – 90, B+ = 89 – 88, B = 87 – 83, B- = 82 – 80, C+ = 79 – 78, C = 77 – 73, C- = 72 – 70, D+ = 69 – 68, D = 67 – 63, D- = 62 – 60, F = 59 – 0.

WEEK 1:**SUBSCRIBE TO NEWS ITEMS AND FAQ DISCUSSION BOARDS**

1/6 REAL VS IMAGINED HORROR
GASLIGHT (CUKOR, 1944)

READ CREED *HORROR AND THE MONSTROUS-FEMININE*
 HOMEWORK: FEAR RESPONSE PAPER

****ONLINE DISCUSSION OPEN FROM 1/6 – 1/12****

WEEK 2:

1/13 THE MIND AS A HAUNTED SPACE
REPULSION (POLANSKI, 1965)

READ JANISSE INTRODUCTION AND PART 1
HOMEWORK: FILM ANALYSIS
DUE: FEAR RESPONSE PAPER

****ONLINE DISCUSSION OPEN FROM 1/13 – 1/19****

WEEK 3:

1/20 MODERN LIFE IS KILLING US: THE RURAL GETAWAY
LET'S SCARE JESSICA TO DEATH (HANCOCK, 1971)

READ JANISSE PART 2 AND *HAUNTED HABITABILITY*
HOMEWORK: MIDTERM CREATIVE ASSIGNMENT
DUE: FILM ANALYSIS

****ONLINE DISCUSSION OPEN FROM 1/19 – 1/26****

WEEK 4:

1/27 POSSESSION AND EXORCISM
REQUIEM (SCHMID, 2006)

READ JANISSE PART 3 AND O'FLINN *PRODUCTION & REPRODUCTION*

****ONLINE DISCUSSION OPEN FROM 1/27 – 2/2****

WEEK 5:

2/3 DOUBLES AND REFLECTIONS
IMAGES (ALTMAN, 1972)

READ JANISSE PARTS 4 & 5
HOMEWORK: FINAL RESEARCH PAPER OR HORROR SHORT PROPOSAL
DUE: MIDTERM CREATIVE ASSIGNMENT

****ONLINE DISCUSSION OPEN FROM 2/3 – 2/9****

WEEK 6:

2/10 ADOLESCENCE AND LIMINILITY
AUDREY ROSE (WISE, 1977)

READ JANISSE PART 6 AND THURSCHELL, *THE GHOST WORLDS OF MODERN ADOLESCENCE*

HOMEWORK: WORK ON FINAL
DUE: FINAL RESEARCH PAPER OR HORROR SHORT PROPOSAL

****ONLINE DISCUSSION OPEN FROM 2/10 – 2/16****

WEEK 7:

2/17 THE POWER OF FRAMING: BELIEF AND VIOLENCE
THE ENTITY (FURIE, 1981)

READ JANISSE PART 7
HOMEWORK: WORK ON FINAL

****ONLINE DISCUSSION OPEN FROM 2/17 – 2/23****

WEEK 8:

2/24 DERRIDA'S HAUNTOLOGY: THE ABJECT ARE AMONG US
POSSESSION (ZULAWSKI, 1981)

READ JANISSE PART 8

****ONLINE DISCUSSION OPEN FROM 2/24 – 3/1****

WEEK 9

3/2 HORROR VS. TERROR: THE IMPACT OF 9/11 ON HORROR
THE DESCENT (MARSHALL, 2005)

READ JANISSE PART 9 AND O'HARA, *MAKING THEIR PRESENCE KNOWN*

DUE: FINAL PAPER ROUGH DRAFT OR ROUGH CUT HORROR SHORT

****ONLINE DISCUSSION OPEN FROM 3/2 – 3/8****

WEEK 10

3/9 THE KIDS ARE ALRIGHT: SCARY MOMMIES AND HORRIFIC OFFSPRING
THE BABADOOK (KENT, 2014)

READ JANISSE PART 10 & EPILOGUE

****ONLINE DISCUSSION OPEN FROM 3/9 – 3/15****

WEEK 11/ FINALS WEEK:

3/16 2:00 – 5:00 The Horror of Finals (Surprise Film Screening)

******* FINAL RESEARCH PAPER DUE 3/16 @ 11:59 CST UPLOADED TO D2L *******

OR

******* FINAL FILM DUE 3/16 @ 11:59 CST VIA WETRANSFER.COM *******

COURSE POLICIES:

In addition to the DePaul University course policies (see student handbook), the following policies apply to this course:

DESIRE TO LEARN – The course uses D2L to post notes and assignments. Please visit <https://d2l.depaul.edu> and use your campus connect ID to enter the site.

FAQ DISCUSSION BOARD – Please post any questions you have about assignments, the course, logistics, etc. on the FAQ discussion board. Students are required to subscribe to this board (see d2l for instructions).

HANDOUT & ASSIGNMENT COPIES – Handout and assignment copies are available on d2l.depaul.edu. Written assignments will be submitted to a dropbox on d2l.

READING ASSIGNMENTS – “The man who does not read has no advantage over the man who cannot read.” – Mark Twain^{1/12}

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES – Each student is responsible for being pro-active, managing their time well and meeting the expectations stated on the syllabus and checklists. The professor will not remind students of assignment deadlines. In the event of an absence it is the student’s responsibility to contact the instructor for homework assignments. You are still responsible for getting the assignment details and turning it in on time. Grades are tracked on d2l and students are expected to understand their standing in the class at all times.

ONLINE STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES – Online learning takes greater maturity, focus and self-motivation than a face-to-face section. The course is not self-paced and online students are responsible for keeping themselves on track.

INTERNET ACCESS AND EMAIL – Students must have 24-hour internet access and are responsible for reading all communications from the professor via email, news items and discussion boards. Update your email address in campus connect and check your junkmail box regularly.

FILM VIEWING – Online students can watch films on coltube. Go to <http://coltube.cdm.depaul.edu> and sign in using your campus connect information. Choose the correct course and term on the left in order to access films for the class.

DEADLINES – Late assignments will not be accepted for grading and written feedback will be given at the instructor's discretion. You will not be eligible for an A in the class unless you turn in all assignments on time. Deadlines are listed on the syllabus, assignment sheets and d2l. No emailed work will be accepted. Do not upload to d2l close to the deadline.

STALLING TACTICS – Submitting a blank, incorrect or corrupted document on d2l are thinly veiled ways to buy more time for an assignment. This is considered cheating and will not be tolerated. If I cannot open your assignment, it is the same as not turning it in and it will receive zero credit.

ACCEPTED FORMATS – PDF and Word documents only. No JPEG, PNG or Pages files will be accepted. For film work .mov or .m4v files will be accepted. Test your exports on a Mac computer other than the one used to create the project before sending.

ATTENDANCE – Attendance and attention in class are mandatory. Any absence (missing more than 15 minutes of class time per session) will impact your grade. Each student is allowed ONE absence (equal to two tardies) before your grade is affected. Online attendance including film viewing is tracked.

ILLNESS – Do not attend class if you are ill (heavy cough, fever, vomiting) or think you might be coming down with something. If you show up visibly sick, you may be asked to go home. In order to prevent a consequence with the attendance and deadline policies, contact me by email prior to missing a class due to illness and continue to keep me posted until you return. As long as I am aware of your situation and you take an active role in catching up, allowances will be made for your situation for up to a week. Every situation will be handled according to individual circumstance at the instructor's discretion. Students with long-term illnesses should contact the Dean of Students office to inquire about a medical

withdrawal. **Absolutely no consideration will be given for those who request special treatment without advanced notice, even with a doctor's note.**

INCOMPLETES – No incompletes will be given.

EXTRA CREDIT – Extra credit is not designed to make up for missing assignments.

COMPUTER/SMART PHONE USE – I can tell the difference between using your laptop to take notes and using it for other purposes. Turn off your phone during class.

PLAGIARISM – Plagiarism on assignments or cheating on exams are serious offenses. Students caught plagiarizing earn a failing grade and/or fail the course depending on the egregiousness of the infraction. All cases of plagiarism result in an Academic Integrity Violation. Students are expected to understand what constitutes original research and how to use proper citation methods. All papers are automatically run through anti-plagiarism software turnitin.com.

PROFESSOR AVAILABILITY – I am available during office hours, which are listed at the top of the syllabus and online. You may email me at any time. Please note that I check my email and d2l several times a day, however I do not keep student hours and I am not available 24/7. If you need specific help with your work, give me at least 24 hours notice. I cannot help with last minutes questions on assignments. If you notice a problem on d2l (incorrect deadline, something locks before it should, etc.) or if you have a general question about an assignment or policy, post in the **FAQ discussion board**. Students who answer questions on the FAQ board earn extra credit.

ADDRESSING THE PROFESSOR – Please call me by my first name in both emails and in person. If my kids' friends call me Shayna (rhymes with Dana), you can, too. The only time you should address me as 'Professor Connelly' is if you are writing an to multiple professors and are using titles for the others.

CONTENT CHANGES – This syllabus may be amended as the course proceeds. You will be notified of all changes.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES – Students who feel they may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately to discuss their specific needs. All discussions will remain confidential. To ensure that you receive the most appropriate reasonable accommodation based on your needs, contact me as early as possible in the quarter (preferably within the first week of class), and make sure that you have contacted:
The Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD) at +1 (773) 325-1677, Student Center #370.

ADDITIONAL ACCOMMODATIONS – This course includes instructional content delivered via audio and video. If you have any concerns about your ability to

access and/or understand this material in its default format, please notify me within the first week of the course so accommodations can be made.

Students who feel they may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately to discuss their specific needs. All discussions will remain confidential. To ensure that you receive the most appropriate reasonable accommodation based on your needs, contact me as early as possible in the quarter (preferably within the first week of class), and make sure that you have contacted:

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