

FILM 338 Genre Study: Horror

Trimester 2 2010

Monday 12 July to Saturday 13 November 2010

20 Points



TRIMESTER DATES

Teaching dates:	Monday 12 July 2010 to Friday 15 October 2010
Mid-trimester break:	Monday 23 August to Sunday 5 September 2010
Study week:	Monday 18 October to Friday 22 October 2010
Last piece of assessment due:	Wednesday 27 October 2010

WITHDRAWAL DATES

Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at
<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds.aspx>

NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS

Course Convenor: Tim Groves
Room: 83FT 303 Phone: 463 5410
Office Hours: Wednesday 12-2pm
Email: tim.groves@vuw.ac.nz

Details of tutorial staff will be posted.

CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Lectures

Monday, Wednesday 3-6pm KK301

Tutorials

All tutorials will be held on Thursday. Details will be posted.

COURSE DELIVERY

This course will be taught through a combination of lectures, screenings and tutorials. Screenings will cover key examples of the horror film genre. Lectures will introduce the weekly topic and deal with the screening. Lectures will be interactive. Tutorials will discuss lectures, screenings and assigned readings. They will include a range of learning activities, including small group work and whole class discussions.

COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional information will be posted on Blackboard.

COURSE CONTENT

This course will explore the horror genre. The first half will examine different kinds of horror: monster-related films, psychological horror and body horror. Each type of horror will be analysed in terms of aesthetics, affect and social/cultural perspectives. The second half of the course will cover a range of topics: 1970s American subversive horror, the zombie film, the ghost film, “torture porn”, millennial dread, horror auteurs and postmodern horror.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The aim of this course is to analyse the horror film in a critical manner. Students who successfully complete the course should possess knowledge and understanding of key types of horror. They should have acquired knowledge of important aesthetic features of the genre, as well as the affective responses it generates. They should have developed a critical awareness of the social and cultural significance of the horror genre. The course will enhance the analytical and critical skills of students. It will improve their proficiency at film analysis and independent research. It will further develop their written and oral communication skills.

EXPECTED WORKLOAD

This is a 20 point unit, so the University expects you to devote about 200 hours to it. You will spend 7 hours per week in class. You should spend about 8 hours per week during the teaching period on reading, watching films, preparing for tutorials, and working on assignments. You should spend the remaining 20 hours on working on assignments during the mid-trimester break.

READINGS

Essential texts:

A list of assigned readings will be made available in class and via Blackboard. These readings will be available through Electronic Closed Reserve.

ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

All assessment for the course will be internal. Further details of each assignment will be posted.

Assignment One: Tutorial Reports (20%)

Length: 1400 words in total

Due Date: Tutorials in weeks 3, 6, 9, 12

Description:

In this assignment you will write four short tutorial reports (about 350 words each). You will use your imagination and critical skills to write a short written response on the following topics: Spooky Wellington, Object Objects, Horrible Ancestors, and Postmodern Appropriations. (No research required!) You must bring your report to your tutorial in the week indicated.

Assessment Criteria:

- Completion of the set task in a clear, direct, legible, relevant, complete and timely manner.
- Quality and originality of the report.
- Quality and fluency of your expression.

Relationship to Learning Objectives:

This assignment will develop your understanding of key concepts and/or issues in the horror genre. It will also enhance your critical and expression skills.

Assignment Two: Essay (40%)

Length: 2800-3000 words

Due Date: Monday, September 6th 5pm

Description:

This assignment will cover topics discussed in the first six weeks of the course, such as monster-related horror films, psychological horror, body horror, the affects and emotions of horror, and the narrative and visual style of horror.

Assessment Criteria:

- Completing the set task in a clear, direct, relevant, and complete manner
- Clear evidence of engagement with the ideas and materials discussed in FILM 338
- The originality and quality of your findings. This will include your ability to conduct independent research from reputable academic sources, synthesise research materials, engage in textual analysis, and develop and express your ideas
- Coherency, structure and argumentation of your essay
- Quality and fluency of your expression
- Understanding and correct application of terms and concepts used in film analysis
- Accurate and complete referencing of all sources, including a bibliography and filmography

Relationship to Learning Objectives:

This assignment will improve your knowledge of one of the topics studied in the first six weeks of the course. It will enable you to develop your textual analysis, independent research, and critical and argumentation skills. It will also improve your written expression.

Assignment Three: Essay (40%)

Length: 2800-3000 words

Due Date: Tuesday 26 October 5pm

Description:

This assignment will cover the issues discussed in weeks 7-12 of the course, such as 1970s American horror, ghost and zombie films, millennial dread, “torture porn”, horror auteurs, and postmodern horror.

Assessment Criteria:

- Completing the set task in a clear, direct, relevant, and complete manner
- Clear evidence of engagement with the ideas and materials discussed in FILM 338
- The originality and quality of your findings. This will include your ability to conduct independent research from reputable academic sources, synthesise research materials, engage in textual analysis, and develop and express your ideas
- Coherency, structure and argumentation of your essay
- Quality and fluency of your expression
- Understanding and correct application of terms and concepts used in film analysis
- Accurate and complete referencing of all sources, including a bibliography and filmography

Relationship to Learning Objectives:

This assignment will improve your knowledge of one of the topics studied in the weeks 7-12 of the course. It will enable you to develop your textual analysis, independent research, and critical and argumentation skills. It will also improve your written expression.

Handing in Assignments:

Assignments should be placed in the drop slot at the Film, Theatre and Media Studies administration reception area in 83 Fairlie Terrace. You must keep a copy of your assignment before submitting it.

ASSIGNMENT COVER SHEETS

Assignment cover sheets and extension forms can be found on Blackboard or outside the Programme office. Remember to fill in your tutor's name.

EXTENSIONS AND PENALTIES

Extensions will be granted only in exceptional and unforeseen circumstances. Issues of workload do not constitute exceptional and unforeseen circumstances. If you require an extension, you must complete an extension request form (available on your course Blackboard site) prior to the assignment due date. This must be accompanied by relevant documentation (e.g. a doctor's certificate) where appropriate. Tutors cannot grant extensions. Work that is submitted late without an extension is subject to penalties:

Work submitted after the deadline will be penalised by a 2.5 percent deduction from your total mark per work day. Late work also receives only minimal comments from your marker.

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

To gain a pass for this course you must:

- Submit at least three tutorial reports for Assignment 1
- Submit essays for Assignments 2 and 3
- Attend at least eight tutorials

CLASS REPRESENTATIVES

A class representative will be elected in the first class, and that person's name and contact details will be available to VUWSA, the Course Coordinator and the class. The class representative provides a communication channel to liaise with the Course Coordinator on behalf of students.

STATEMENT ON LEGIBILITY

You are expected to present work that meets appropriate standards. Work submitted during the course (i. e. work that is internally assessed) should be typed or prepared on a computer. Work submitted in the final examination will obviously be handwritten. You are expected to write clearly. Where work is deemed 'illegible', you will be given a photocopy of the work and asked to transcribe it to an acceptable standard (preferably typed) within a specified time frame.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PLAGIARISM

Academic integrity means that university staff and students, in their teaching and learning are expected to treat others honestly, fairly and with respect at all times. It is not acceptable to mistreat academic, intellectual or creative work that has been done by other people by representing it as your own original work.

Academic integrity is important because it is the core value on which the University's learning, teaching and research activities are based. Victoria University's reputation for academic integrity adds value to your qualification.

The University defines plagiarism as presenting someone else's work as if it were your own, whether you mean to or not. 'Someone else's work' means anything that is not your own idea. Even if it is presented in your own style, you must acknowledge your sources fully and appropriately. This includes:

- Material from books, journals or any other printed source
- The work of other students or staff
- Information from the internet
- Software programs and other electronic material
- Designs and ideas
- The organisation or structuring of any such material

Find out more about plagiarism, how to avoid it and penalties, on the University's website:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

GENERAL UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND STATUTES

You should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the Victoria University Calendar or go to the Academic Policy and Student Policy sections on: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy>

The AVC (Academic) website also provides information in a number of areas including Academic Grievances, Student and Staff conduct, Meeting the needs of students with impairments, and student support/VUWSA student advocates. This website can be accessed at:

http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcacademic/Publications.aspx

COURSE PROGRAMME

Week 1	Date 12/7	Introduction to the Course; Art-Horror
Week 2	Date 19/7	Narrating the Monster Film; Monstrous Communities
Week 3	Date 26/7	Psychological Horror; The Visual Style of Suggestive Horror
Week 4	Date 2/8	Dread and Anxiety; Uncanny Identities
Week 5	Date 9/8	Narrative and Style in Body Horror; The Slasher Film
Week 6	Date 16/8	Disgust, Humour, Abjection; Reading the Abject Body
Mid Trimester Break: Monday 23 August to Sunday 5 September 2010		
Week 7	Date 6/9	1970s American Subversive Horror
Week 8	Date 13/9	Zombie Films: Social Commentary and the Crowd
Week 9	Date 20/9	Ghost Films: Haunting, Race and Technology
Week 10	Date 27/9	Millennial Dread; Torture Porn
Week 11	Date 4/10	Masters of Horror
Week 12	Date 11/10	Postmodern Horror