



# Tales of Horror

**01:470:227:01 and 01:195:227:02**

Course Sakai Site: <https://sakai.rutgers.edu/portal>

## Fall Semester 2016

Fridays, 9:50am – 12:50pm, AB 1180

3 credits

Prof. Nicola Behrmann

Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures

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Office Hours: Thus, 3-4:30pm

## Course Description

Taught in English. No prerequisites.

Frankenstein and Dracula, vampires and zombies, *doppelgänger*, ghosts, and artificial humans continue to haunt the cultural imagination throughout the centuries. This course explores tales of horror through some of their most spellbinding creatures and fantasies in a period ranging from the Brothers Grimm to surrealist cinema: We will consider the historical or political context and the psychoanalytical underpinnings in each horrific tale and we will pay close attention to the ways a narrative (text or film) establishes, safeguards, or releases its horrific kernel. We will reflect the ways in which horror enters German Expressionism and why moving images relate particularly well to the uncanny and will explore the similarities and differences in the way film and literature explore horror. Readings include E.T.A. Hoffmann's "The Sandman," Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, the figure of the devil in Jeremias Gotthelf's "The Black Spider" and Edgar Allen Poe's "The Black Cat," the vampire in Bram Stoker's *Dracula*, and two short stories by Franz Kafka. Filmic contributions range from Murnau's *Nosferatu* and Wiene's *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari* to Louis Buñuel's *Un Chien Andalou* and Alfred Hitchcock's *The Birds*. Theoretical reflections are provided by Lotte Eisner, Shoshana Felman, Sigmund Freud, Barbara Johnson, Siegfried Kracauer, Laurence A. Rickels, and Slavoj Žizek.

## Course Goals:



This course satisfies SAS Core Curriculum Requirements **AHo and AHp**.

**Arts and Humanities Goal o:** Student is able to examine critically philosophical and other theoretical issues concerning the nature of reality, human experience, knowledge, value, and/or cultural production.

**Arts and Humanities Goal p:** Student is able to analyze arts and/or literature in themselves and in relation to specific histories, values, languages, cultures, and/or technologies.

By the end of this course students will be able to: demonstrate an understanding of the structure, meaning, and function of horror narratives; demonstrate an understanding of their authors' values and ideas; critically reflect on our value system and the interrelatedness of horror narratives and their historical, cultural, and theoretical contexts; formulate well-organized written interpretations grounded in textual evidence and supported by secondary literature; be able to propose a thesis and support it with appropriate evidence. Assessment will be based on participation in class evaluation of assigned written work. Please keep in mind the attendance policy (as outlined below).

## Course Learning Goals

### Final Grade:

Class Participation and regular blog posts	25%
3 Response Papers (6pp. each)	45%
Group presentation (in class and online)	10%
Final Paper (10pp.)	20%

### Grade distribution:

A=90-100%; B+=85-89; B=80-84; C+=75-79; C=70-74; D=65-69; F=64 and below

## Required Books\*

- Jeremias Gotthelf, *The Black Spider* (New York Review Book Classics, 2013) **ISBN-10:** 1590176685 **ISBN-13:** 978-1590176689
- Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein* (Penguin Classics, 2003) **ISBN-13:** 9780141439471
- Bram Stoker, *Dracula* (Penguin Classics, 2003) **ASIN:** B004SCEJK8

\*All other materials on the syllabus are available on Sakai. You must **print out** course materials from Sakai and have a copy of them with you in class.

## Recommended Books\*\*

- Sigmund Freud, *The Uncanny* (Penguin Classics, 2003) **ISBN-10:** 0142437476 **ISBN-13:** 978-0142437476
- Franz Kafka, *The Metamorphosis, In the Penal Colony, and Other Stories* (Touchstone, 2000) **ASIN:** B00HTJZ6JK

\*Will be available on Sakai as well but recommended for purchase if you intend to work with these texts more closely in your essay assignments.

## Required Films

All films are on reserve at the Rutgers Media Center (Douglass Library, 8 Chapel Drive, New Brunswick, NJ 08901). Except for the short film *An Andalusian Dog* all films must be viewed **before class begins**:

- *The Shining* (available for rent [\$2,99] on Amazon)
- *Psycho* (available for rent [\$3,99] on Amazon)
- *The Student of Prague* (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OuvIvwSi1gI>)
- *The Black Cat* (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xpiSPrTbkUk>)
- *The Innocents* (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ktvn-UFNJkM>)
- *Peeping Tom* (available for rent [\$2,99] on Amazon)
- *Nosferatu: A Symphony of Horror* (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rcyzubFvBsA> )

## Departmental Policies

### Attendance

You must attend regularly and arrive prepared; if you expect to miss one or two classes, please use the University absence reporting website <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/> to indicate the date and reason for your absence. An email is automatically sent to me. Those who miss more than two class sessions without a compelling excuse should expect a one-step reduction in the course grade (i.e. an A becomes a B+, a B+ becomes a B). Every additional three absences may entail a further one-step grade-reduction. Three late arrivals count as one absence. Note: It is the responsibility of students who have been absent (for any reason) to find out what they have missed and obtain materials that may have been handed out.

### Cell Phones

Cell phones and all other technological devices (beepers, iPods, MP3players...) must be turned off during class out of respect for the instructor and fellow students. Please schedule all important phone communications outside of class time.

### Disability Support Services

Students who may be requesting accommodations due to disabilities are encouraged to familiarize themselves with procedures and policies regarding disability support services at the following website: <http://disabilityservices.rutgers.edu/>. It is recommended that students seeking accommodations begin filing paperwork as soon as possible as the documentation review process may take up to 30 business days. Students are encouraged to speak with teachers about these issues at the beginning of the term. All such conversations will be kept strictly confidential.

## Academic Integrity

Violations of academic integrity are an extremely serious matter, and can lead to a student's failing the course and being referred to the University's Office of Student Conduct for disciplinary action. When referring to ideas other than your own, always acknowledge your sources clearly and completely, whether you are quoting or paraphrasing. Note also that use of online translation services is not permitted as a tool for generating work that you submit for course credit. Please see the University's policies on academic integrity at <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/>, and discuss with your instructor any questions you may have about this and related issues.

## Tentative Course Schedule

Fri 09/09	Introduction Grimm Brothers, "Cinderella" Tvetan Todorov, "Definition of the Fantastic"
<b>UN/MOURNING</b>	
Fri 09/16	Grimm Brothers, "The Juniper Tree" Sigmund Freud, "Mourning and Melancholia"; Lovecraft, "Supernatural Horror in Literature"
Fri 09/23	Ludwig Tieck, "The Fair Haired Eckbert" (1797) FILM: Kubrick, <i>The Shining</i> (1980)
<b>MAN, MONSTER, MOTHER</b>	
Fri 09/30	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Essay due</b> Mary Shelley, <i>Frankenstein</i> (1818)
Fri 10/07	Shelley, <i>Frankenstein</i> , cont.; Johnson, "My Monster, My Self" FILM: Hitchcock, <i>Psycho</i> (1960)
<b>DOPPELGÄNGER</b>	
Fri 10/14	E. T. A. Hoffmann, "The Sandman" (1826) Sigmund Freud, "The Uncanny" (1919) FILM: <i>The Student of Prague</i> (dir. Paul Wegener, 1913) Recommended: Otto Rank, "The Double"
<b>DEVILS</b>	
Fri 10/21	Edgar Allen Poe, "The Black Cat" (1843); Zizek, "From Symptom to <i>Sinthome</i> " FILM: <i>The Black Cat</i> (dir. Edgar G. Ulmer, 1934)
Tue 10/28	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Essay due</b> Jeremias Gotthelf, "The Black Spider" (1842)
<b>VAMPIRES</b>	
Thu 11/04	Bram Stoker, <i>Dracula</i> (1897) Halberstam, "Technologies of Monstrosity: Bram Stoker's <i>Dracula</i> "

Fri 11/11	Stoker, <i>Dracula</i> (1897) Rickels, <i>The Vampire Lectures</i> , pp. 25-50; Recommended: Freud, "Totem and Taboo"
<b>HORRORS OF INTERPRETATION</b>	
Fri 11/18	Henry James, "The Turn of the Screw" (1898) Felman, "Turning the Screw of Interpretation" FILM: <i>The Innocents</i> (dir. Jack Clayton, 1961)
<b>NIGHTMARES AND ANGST</b>	
Wed 11/23	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> essay due</b> Franz Kafka, "In the Penal Colony" (1914), Kafka, "A Country Doctor" (1919) FILM: <i>Peeping Tom</i> (dir. Michael Powell, 1960) Zimmer, "Peeping Tom and Technological Perversion"
<b>EXPRESSIONIST AND SURREALIST HORROR CINEMA</b>	
Fri 12/02	<b>Outline of final paper due (hard copy!)</b> FILM: <i>Nosferatu</i> (dir. Murnau, 1922) Eisner, <i>The Haunted Screen</i> (excerpts); Hantke, "Horror film and the Apparatus of Cinema"; Abbott, "Spectral Vampires"
Fri 12/09	<b>Term Paper Workshop</b> FILM: <i>Un Chien Andalou</i> (dir. Luis Buñuel, 1929)

**Final paper due: Friday, December 9**

## **Student-Wellness Services:**

### **Just In Case Web App**

<http://codu.co/cee05e>

Access helpful mental health information and resources for yourself or a friend in a mental health crisis on your smartphone or tablet and easily contact CAPS or RUPD.

### **Counseling, ADAP & Psychiatric Services (CAPS)**

**(848) 932-7884 / 17 Senior Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 / [www.rhscaps.rutgers.edu/](http://www.rhscaps.rutgers.edu/)**

CAPS is a University mental health support service that includes counseling, alcohol and other drug assistance, and psychiatric services staffed by a team of professional within Rutgers Health services to support students' efforts to succeed at Rutgers University. CAPS offers a variety of services that include: individual therapy, group therapy and workshops, crisis intervention, referral to specialists in the community and consultation and collaboration with campus partners.

### **Violence Prevention & Victim Assistance (VPVA)**

**(848) 932-1181 / 3 Bartlett Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 / [www.vpva.rutgers.edu/](http://www.vpva.rutgers.edu/)**

The Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance provides confidential crisis intervention, counseling and advocacy for victims of sexual and relationship violence and stalking to students, staff and faculty. To reach staff during office hours when the university is open or to reach an advocate after hours, call 848-932-1181.

### **Disability Services**

**(848) 445-6800 / Lucy Stone Hall, Suite A145, Livingston Campus, 54 Joyce Kilmer Avenue, Piscataway, NJ 08854 / <https://ods.rutgers.edu/>**

Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation:

<https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines>. If the documentation supports

your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at:

<https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>.

### **Scarlet Listeners**

**(732) 247-5555 / <http://www.scarletlisteners.com/>**

Free and confidential peer counseling and referral hotline, providing a comforting and supportive safe space.