



蘇州大學  
Soochow University

## **FIL 295 The Horror Film**

**Winter 2024**

**Course Credits:** 4

**Contact Hours:** 56 hours

**Instructor:** TBA

**Email:** TBA

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

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This course explores the genre of horror film as a medium for exploring cultural anxieties, societal taboos, and the human condition. Through critical analysis of classic and contemporary horror films, students will gain a deep understanding of the genre's evolution, its narrative and stylistic conventions, and its impact on popular culture. By examining the psychological, social, and political aspects of horror, students will develop a comprehensive appreciation of the genre's significance in cinematic history.

Upon Completion of this Course, students will be able to:

1. Have a thorough grasp of the history of the horror film, its formal and narrative strategies, and the various critical and theoretical approaches;
2. Be familiar with several important and/or ground-breaking horror films;
3. Expand their knowledge of the diverse global forms of horror films;
4. Describe the historical forces that helped shape the horror film, including industrial/technological and social/cultural influences.

### **PREREQUISITES**

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None

### **GRADING**

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Grades will be determined by accumulating points, with 100 points being the maximum, as follows:



ITEM	POINTS
3 Assignments	30 Points
Final Paper and Presentation	20 Points
Midterm Exam	20 Points
Final Exam	30 Points
Total	100 Points

Late submissions will be graded at the end of the course. Grades will be assigned according to the following rule:

$A \geq 90 > B \geq 80 > C \geq 70 > D \geq 60 > F$ .

We reserve the right to make adjustments to the overall grading policy.

## COURSE MATERIALS

### Required Texts:

Andrew Tudor, *Monsters and Mad Scientists: A Cultural History of the Horror Movie*, 1st Edition, John Wiley & Sons, 1989.

### Recommended (Optional) Texts or Other Materials:

Paul Wells, *The Horror Genre: From Beelzebub to Blair Witch*, London: Wallflower, 2000.

## COURSE TOPICS

MODULE	TASKS
Module 1	<p><b>Topics:</b> Topic 1: Defining Horror: Genre and Characteristics Topic 2: Historical Overview of the Horror Film Topic 3: Psychological Aspects of Fear Topic 4: Classic Monsters/Contemporary Categories</p> <p><b>Assessments:</b> Screening and Film Discussion Assignment #1</p>



Module 2	<b>Topics:</b> Topic 5: Genre History I: 1931 - 1960 Topic 6: Genre History II: 1961 - 1984 Topic 7: Narratives Topic 8: Gothic Horror and Literature <b>Assessments:</b> Screening and Film Discussion Assignment #2
Module 3	<b>Topics:</b> Topic 9: Horror in the Atomic Age Topic 10: Race, Class, and the Urban Gothic Topic 11: The Politics of Zombie Cinema Topic 12: Mad Science <b>Assessments:</b> Screening and Film Discussion Midterm Exam
Module 4	<b>Topics:</b> Topic 13: The Horror Film and Industry Topic 14: The Horror Film and Technology Topic 15: The Horror Film and Society Topic 16: The Horror Film and Culture <b>Assessments:</b> Screening and Film Discussion Assignment #3
Module 5	<b>Topics:</b> Topic 17: Popularity of Horror Film Topic 18: International Horror Films Topic 19: Contemporary Trends and Future of Horror Topic 20: Final Exam Review <b>Assessments:</b> Final Paper and Presentation Final Exam

## ATTENDANCE

1) Class attendance is required. Missing classes without permission will lead to decrease in overall grade.

Missing less than two classes: no penalty.

Missing more than two classes: 7% will be taken off from the overall grade.

If the instructor reports a student's frequent missing of class to the Soochow



University Academic Administration Office, the student might get a written warning and might be prohibited from attending final exam.

2) Participants in this course are expected to arrive in class promptly and adequately prepared. The primary objective of this course is to critically engage with the readings and the subject matter. Therefore, course participants are expected to have completed the reading prior to class and prepare thoughtful reflections/commentaries to share with fellow colleagues.

### **LEARNING REQUIREMENTS**

- 1) Late assignments are not acceptable and are subjected to grade deductions.
- 2) Assignments submitted in the wrong format will be counted as not submitted.
- 3) Failure to submit or fulfill any required course component results in failure of the class.
- 4) Make-up for midterm and final exams only with valid excuses, as defined by the University.
- 5) In order to earn a Certificate of Completion, participants must thoughtfully complete all assignments by stated deadlines and earn an average quiz score of 50% or greater.

### **TECHNOLOGY POLICY**

The use of electronic devices in class is distracting, both for the user and for the rest of the class. Only non-programmable calculators can be used in the tests and exam. Any attempts to use cell phones and other electronic communication devices will be seemed as cheating. Laptops are discouraged, unless you use them for activities DIRECTLY related to the course (eg., note taking, reading course documents).

### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY**

Soochow University highly values the academic integrity and aims to promote the academic fairness, honesty and responsibility. Any academic dishonesty behaviors and any attempts to cheats and plagiarism will be reported to the university administration office. A written warning and the relevant penalties will be imposed. The record might be shown on the official university transcript.



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## **DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION**

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Soochow University is committed to maintaining a barrier-free environment so that students with disabilities can fully access programs, courses, services, and activities at Soochow University. Students with disabilities who require accommodations for access to and/or participation in this course are welcome.

Note:

Please contact the University Administrative Office immediately if you have a learning disability, a medical issue, or any other type of problem that prevents professors from seeing you have learned the course material.