

HORROR FILMS SUMMER SESSION ONE 2011 FILM DEPT.
BROOKLYN COLLEGE SYLLABUS JOHN BEATTY
REQUIREMENTS

Readings

Text book:

Skal, David J. 1993; *The Monster Show*; Farber and Farber, NY

Additional Readings: At least one book from the following list:

Jones, E. Michael, 2000; *Monsters from the Id: The Rise of Horror in Fiction and Film*; Spence Publishing; Dallas, TX

Skal, David J. 1990; *Hollywood Gothic The Tangled Web of Dracula from Novel to Stage to Screen*; W.W. Norton and Co. NY

Clarens, Carlos, 1967; *An Illustrated History of the Horror Film* Capricorn Book, NY

Kovacs, Lee 2006; *The Haunted Screen: Ghosts in Literature and Film*; McFarland and Co. Jefferson, NC

Silver Alain and James Ursini, 1994; *More Things Than Are Dream Of Masterpieces of Supernatural Horror – from Mary Shelley to Stephen King – in Literature and Film*; Limelight Editions, NY

Dyson, Jeremy, 1997; *Bright Darkness The Lost Art of the Supernatural Horror Film*; Cassell, London and Washington

Bansak, Edmund G., 1995; *Fearing the Dark The Val Lewton Career*; McFarland and Co. Jefferson, NC

Maxford, Howard, 1996; *Hammer, The House of Horror Behind the Screams*; Overlook Press, Woodstock, NY



Attendance: No more than 2 cuts allowed. More than 10 minutes late = absent.

Phone use: No Phones to be used for any reason during class. No incoming outgoing calls; no texting etc. A phone that goes off or is used earns you a 0 and counts as 90% of your grade.



Grades: Grades are based on attendance, participation, final and term paper.



OUTLINE

The course will examine the historical development of the horror film as well as the problems involved in defining the genre and its possible subgenres and the

importance of this in an examination of just what happens when different definitions are used. Films will be selected largely from the US although some foreign films will be screened as well. The course will look specifically at changing subtexts and techniques of the genre.



TENTATIVE LIST OF FILMS

1. June 7: Early Silent Horror: Melies: *Le manoir du diable* (1896); Edison: *Frankenstein* (1910); Murnau: *Nosferatu* (1922); *Phantom of the Opera* (1925); *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* (1920)
2. June 14: 30's – 40's The Golden Age of Horror: The Universal Horror Film Cycle: *Dracula* (1931), *Frankenstein* (1931), *Wolfman* (1941), *Jekyll and Hyde* (1931 and 1941); *Phantom of the Opera* (1943)

3. June 15: 40's Lewton: RKO Strikes back: The horror/terror problem. *Cat People* (1942), *I Walked with a Zombie* (1943), *Curse of the Cat People* (1944), *Body Snatcher* (1945)
4. June 16: **Mixed genres:** *Abbott and Costello Meet Frankenstein* (1948); *Little Shop of Horrors* (1960) *Little Shop of Horrors* (1986)
5. June 21: **The Gimmicks** 3D, Castle films *House of Wax* (1953), *13 Ghosts* (1960)
6. June 22: **Sub genre: Monsters:** The final famous Universal monster an eroticism: *Creature from the Black Lagoon* (1954); *Beast from 20,000 Fathoms* (1953); *It Came from Beneath the Sea* (1955); *20,000,000 Miles to Earth* (1957)
7. June 23: Hammer Studios ("The House that Dripped Blood") joins the fray late 50's remakes UI 30's films *Curse of Frankenstein* (1957), *Horror of Dracula* (1958), *The Mummy* (1959)
8. June 28: **Sub genre: The Anthology film:** Japan contributes *Kwaidan* (1964) – the anthology film: from Britain: *Dead of Night* (1945); from Italy - *I tre volti della paura* (U.S. title: *Black Sabbath*) (1963);
9. June 29: The new "crew" and the "franchise" concept: Michael Myers, *Halloween*(1978); Jason Vorhees, *Friday the 13th* (1980) and Freddie Kruger, *Nightmare on Elm Street* (1984)
10. June 30: Genre: **The Zombie film:** *Night of the Living Dead* (etc.); *Serpent and the Rainbow*
11. July 5: **Sub genre: The Devil and friends** (with or without possession): *Rosemary's Baby* (1968) ; *The Omen* (1976) ; *Crazy as Hell* (2002) ; *The Exorcist* (1973); *Fallen* (1998); *Faust* (1926); *The Possession of Joel Delaney* (1972); *Devil and Daniel Webster* (1941)
12. July 6: Japan restarts the cycle – (and America remakes): *Ringu* (1998)/*Ring* (2002);
13. July 7: *Science vs. the Supernatural* (in WOODY TANGER AUDITORIUM IN THE LIBRARY) *Lost World, Hound of the Baskervilles*

14. July 12: **Sub genre: The Haunted House:** *Paranormal Activity* (2007); *Amityville Horror* (1979); *The Haunting* (1960); *Poltergeist* (1982)
15. July 13: **Sub genre: Psychological horror:** Horror moves to a more complex artistic level: *The Shining* (1980) (fiction vs. literature); *Psycho* (1960) and the development of the slasher and gore genres. The body as the site of horror (the arrival of AIDS)
16. July 14: FINAL EXAMINATION