

## Course Scope and Sequence of Units

Course: Horror A-Z-Parent Permission Required For Films

Unit Name	Key Subtopics	Approximate Dates
<p>The historical background of Horror and Gothic literature a basic introduction</p>	<p><b>Skills/Subtopics:</b>  <u>Possible literature and films not limited to:</u>                      “The Yellow Wallpaper” by Charlotte Perkins Gilman                      “Dracula’s Guest” by Bram Stoker  <i>Dracula</i>  <i>Excerpts from Wuthering Heights and Jane Eyre</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The horror films that they enjoy watching so much evolved from the gothic genre.</li> <li>● The skills one uses to analyze works of literature are the same skills that can be applied to analyzing film.</li> <li>● There are a variety of different sub-genres within the horror genre.</li> <li>● Identifying the elements of the gothic genre throughout a variety of different mediums.</li> <li>● Recognizing different devices that are used within the horror genre.</li> <li>● Explaining how the horror genre has evolved throughout history.</li> <li>● Recognize how contemporary horror films have their roots in the gothic genre.</li> <li>● Pertinent horror films of the 1940s-1960s as well as the literature development of the time.</li> <li>● Horror films of the 1950s onward and how the genre evolved to reflect cultural and societal issues of the time.</li> <li>● The different sub-genres of horror:                         <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Psychological Horror, Slasher, Gothic Horror, Eco-Horror, Comedy Horror, Found Footage, Sci-Fi Horror, etc.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● That the horror genre plays off of real life fears of people:                         <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Fear of snakes</li> <li>○ Fear of clowns</li> <li>○ Fear of spiders, etc.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Two Weeks</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The horror genre can also occasionally play off of the fear induced by relevant historical events of the time. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Example: “It Had to Be Murder” by Cornell Woolrich, and Alfred Hitchcock’s adaption, <i>Rear Window</i>, feed off of the fears of the Red Scare.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<p>Horror and Gothic literature/film timeline</p>	<p><b>Skills/Subtopics:</b>  <u>Possible literature and films not limited to:</u>  “The Cat from Hell” and “The Children of the Corn” by Stephen King  <i>The Shining</i>,  <i>Psycho</i>  <i>Haunting at Hill House</i>  <i>The Walking Dead</i>  <i>Twilight Zone</i>  <i>Halloween</i>  <i>Nightmare on Elm Street</i>  <i>Blair Witch Project</i>  <i>Misery</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Research project on famous people in the gothic/horror genre.</li> <li>● Contemporary horror stories and films were inspired by the gothic genre of the late 18th and 19th centuries.</li> <li>● The common elements that one would typically find in a work of gothic fiction are similar to the horror elements found in contemporary works.</li> <li>● Gothic/Horror films often play off of real societal fears and experiments of the time.</li> <li>● Characteristics of the gothic genre: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ruin, decay, death, terror, and chaos</li> <li>○ The dark side of nature</li> <li>○ Irrational human behavior</li> <li>○ Intricate Plot</li> <li>○ Stock Characters</li> <li>○ The “Double”</li> <li>○ Subterranean Labyrinths</li> <li>○ Ruined Castles</li> <li>○ Supernatural Occurrences</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Three Weeks</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Common Themes of the Genre: Terror Vs. Horror, Appearance vs. Reality, Confinement, Justice vs. Injustice.</li> <li>● Various stock characters that are present throughout the genre through victims and killers.</li> <li>● Various literary devices used throughout written work of the horror genre, and the various sound/design choices a director might incorporate to create tone/mood.</li> <li>● Identifying the elements of the gothic genre throughout a variety of different mediums.</li> <li>● Identifying elements of the gothic genre in contemporary works.</li> <li>● Analyzing common themes of the genre throughout a variety of different mediums.</li> <li>● Analyzing a work’s use of literary devices and the effect that they have on the overall tone and mood of a piece.</li> <li>● Writing and defending a strong thesis statement.</li> <li>● Incorporating multiple sources within the development of an essay.</li> <li>● Incorporating and analyzing direct quotes in order to support a claim.</li> </ul>	
<p>Ghosts in film and literature</p>	<p><b>Skills/Subtopics:</b>  <u>Possible literature and films not limited to:</u>  <i>The Haunting of Hill House</i> by Shirley Jackson          “You Know How the Story Goes” by Heuret          “No Exit” by Orrin Grey,          “The Outsider” by H.P. Lovecraft  <i>The Haunting of Hill House,</i>  <i>The Sixth Sense</i>  <i>Ghost Adventures</i>  <i>Ghostbusters</i>  <i>Amityville Horror movie and documentary,</i>  <i>Candyman</i>  <i>Insidious</i>  <i>Paranormal Activity</i>  <i>The Conjuring</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Possible Local ghost stories/authors: The Blue Lady, Stephen King, Lizzie Borden, The Shining, Amityville Horror, “The Forbidden”, Ed and Lorraine Warren.</li> <li>● 6 Chilling New England Ghost Stories assignment.</li> <li>● Write your own suspense story with horror and gothic elements.</li> </ul>	<p>Three Weeks</p>

- The paranormal subgenre of horror elicits fear without having a physical presence formed upon the screen.
- Belief in ghosts is found throughout various cultures from around the world, and so ghost stories are often passed down through the oral tradition.
- Oftentimes, ghost stories/haunted locations are associated with a dramatic death or loss.
- Different cultures around the world have different beliefs and ceremonies to honor their dead.
- Characteristics of horror films:
  - More action than dialogue
  - Mounting Suspense
  - Jump Scares
  - Gore
  - A Villain or a Monster
- The paranormal subgenre of horror films are usually closely related to the demonic subgenre of horror films.
- "Campfire Stories" are stories that are often told around a campfire. Some of these stories are incredibly old and can vary across different cultures.
- Ghosts in Classical Literature often appeared as vapor or smoke, but sometimes they also appeared as they appeared at their specific time of death.
  - Book 11, *The Odyssey*
  - Seneca → Portrayal of ghosts that influenced English Renaissance
  - The Senecan Model of Ghosts → *Hamlet, Macbeth, Richard III*
  - Ghosts in the Romantic Era → Gothic Fiction
- "The Golden Age of the Ghost Story" occurred between the decline of the Gothic novel, and the start of the first world war.
- Incorporating multiple reliable resources within the research of their haunted location.
- Comparing and contrasting different haunted locations and first person accounts throughout history.
- Recognizing and analyzing the key components of a ghost story within a variety of different mediums.
- Analyzing works within the horror genre for plot structure, setting, characterization, theme and narrative point of view.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analyzing how horror films utilize lighting, dialogue, setting, and special effects to enhance a ghost story.</li> <li>Recognizing and explaining how the ghost story has evolved throughout history.</li> <li>Recognizing and explaining how ghosts/ghost stories are portrayed throughout various cultures throughout the world.</li> </ul>	
<p>Psychological/Religious/Childrens' Horror and Gothic film and literature</p>	<p><b>Skills/Subtopics:</b>  <u>Possible literature and films not limited to:</u>          "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" by Robert Louis Stevenson          The Roland Doe story          "The Tell-Tale Heart" by Edgar Allen Poe          "Diary of a Madman" by Guy de Maupassant  <i>The Exorcist</i>  <i>Poltergeist</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scariest places in the world research project.</li> <li>Psychological horror is a subgenre of horror that is designed to focus on the parts of the human psyche that are often repressed.</li> <li>Psychological horror often plays on the following emotions: suspicion, distrust, self-doubt, paranoia about oneself and/or others.</li> <li>The psychological subgenre is used as a way to explore the complexity of human nature.</li> <li>Films from the subgenres studied in this unit often rely less on jump scares and gore, and more on atmosphere and ambiguity.</li> <li>Psychological horror films are designed to elicit emotions such as tension, fear, stress, and shock.</li> <li>Jungian Horror Archetypes.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Persona/Shadow Archetypes                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inflation of the Shadow</li> </ul> </li> <li>The Wise Man/Magician Archetype</li> <li>The Anima/Animus Archetype</li> </ul> </li> <li>Archetypal Shadow Characteristics:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Suspicion</li> <li>Distrust</li> <li>Self-doubt</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Three Weeks</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Paranoia of self, others, and the world.</li> <li>● Important characteristics for this specific subgenre of horror: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Atmosphere→ Tone and Mood</li> <li>o Use of subtle details</li> <li>o Ambiguity</li> <li>o Plot Twists</li> <li>o Element of surprise</li> </ul> </li> <li>● The psychological sub genre focuses on the mental, emotional, and psychological states of human life.</li> <li>● This sub genre uses a gradual build of suspense in order to allow for a natural sense of fear to build among its audience.</li> <li>● Analyzing a common theme across various mediums.</li> <li>● Comparing and contrasting how different mediums handle the same subject/story.</li> <li>● Recognizing and explaining how directors develop the atmosphere of a piece in order to elicit emotion from the audience.</li> <li>● Conducting short research assignments in order to gather a deeper understanding of the true events/experiences that influenced various stories and films.</li> <li>● Comparing and contrasting film adaptations of various short texts.</li> <li>● Recognizing and describing the various archetypes found within the horror genre and the specific characteristics of the archetypal shadow.</li> <li>● Recognizing and analyzing the literary devices that are specific to the psychological/religious horror subgenre.</li> <li>● Describing/Analyzing how stories gradually build suspense to elicit an emotional response from their audience.</li> </ul>	
<p>Monsters, Zombies and Otherness</p>	<p><b>Skills/Subtopics:</b>  <u>Possible literature and films not limited to:</u>  "The Walking Dead" comic  "Thin Cold Hands" by Gemma Files  "I am Legend" by Richard Matheson  "Back Along the Old Track" by Sam Hicks  "The Extinction Parade: an Original Zombie Story" by Max Brooks  <i>The Walking Dead</i> Pilot Episode,</p>	<p>Three Weeks</p>

*Night of the Living Dead*

*I am Legend, Frankenstein*

*World War Z*

- Directors make stylistic choices in regards to makeup, setting, lighting, sound, and special effects in order to enhance the plot and develop an atmospheric mood for a horror film.
- Werewolves, Witches, Vampires and other monsters and creatures were influenced by a natural human fear of the unknown.
- Each country around the world has their unique interpretation of what a werewolf, zombie, vampire, etc looks like, but all of these legends and myths have similar attributes and characteristics.
- Urban legends and monster myths derive from human fear of the unknown.
  - Werewolves came from the fear of the wolf.
  - Vampires → 19th century TB cases
  - Witches → conflict/mass hysteria
- Societal fear is often passed down through generations. For example, the concept of the werewolf originally came from a fear of wolves which has been passed down through popular nursery rhymes, fables, and stories.
- In many tales, monsters tend to serve as metaphors or symbols for fear itself.
- How the depiction of various monsters have evolved through time and how Hollywood has taken their original conception and enhanced it for film.
- Using figurative language and other literary devices in the development of their own monster/urban legend story.
- Analyzing stylistic choices that directors make in regards to makeup/design, and special effects in the creation of their monsters and creatures.
- Identifying and explaining the role that fear takes within the context of a horror story.
- Analyzing the use of figurative language, and symbolism throughout a text and film.
- Comparing and contrasting how different countries/cultures portray common supernatural characters such as vampires, werewolves, zombies, etc.
- Interpreting the role of history and societal fear in the development of various monster myths.

<p>Comedy and Campy Horror</p>	<p><b>Skills/Subtopics:</b>  <u>Possible literature and films not limited to:</u>  The Brothers Grimm stories    Scary Stories to Tell in the dark by Alvin Schwartz    <i>Gremlins</i>    <i>Sweeney Todd</i>    <i>Beetlejuice</i>    <i>Scream</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● There are certain clichés in horror films that can move a horror film from true horror to comedy/spoof.</li> <li>● Comedy and Horror have gone hand in hand since the beginning of the horror novel as they can often find themselves becoming comedic parodies.</li> <li>● Comedy horror films combine jump scares and other elements of the horror genre, but also play off of humor and comedic relief.</li> <li>● This subgenre is actually a blended genre between comedies and horror.</li> <li>● Comedy Horror Films can be categorized under three different types: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Black Comedy</li> <li>○ Parody</li> <li>○ Spoof</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Comedy horror films often utilize horror clichés as their main source of humor.</li> <li>● How an author uses comedy to provide relief from more fearful moments of a text.</li> <li>● That film writers can blend different genres together to create new film classifications.</li> <li>● Various relevant literary devices and tools: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Comic relief</li> <li>○ Joker Character Archetype</li> <li>○ Juxtaposition</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Comedy Horror has its origins to the 1920s stage, but had its biggest success with audiences of the 1980s.</li> <li>● Incorporating a variety of different ideas/subgenres studied throughout the course in the development of one's own writing.</li> </ul>	<p>Two Weeks</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Using figurative language and other literary devices in the development of their own horror story.</li> <li>● Understanding comedic timing and comic relief.</li> <li>● Analyzing the use of various relevant literary tools and devices within the comedic horror genre.</li> </ul>	
Environment-Horror	<p><b>Skills/Subtopics:</b></p> <p><u>Possible literature and films not limited to:</u></p> <p>“White Mare” by Thana Niveau</p> <p>“The Mark of the Beast” by Kipling</p> <p>“The Graveyard Shift” by Stephen King</p> <p><i>Jaws</i></p> <p><i>Blair Witch Project</i></p> <p><i>Pet Cemetery</i></p> <p><i>Outbreak</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The eco-horror genre reflects society's feelings of guilt and fear over the harm that has been done to our ecosystem.</li> <li>● Eco-horror films explore the natural disasters and the consequences that society is already experiencing and could potentially experience due in part to global warming/other.</li> <li>● Eco-horror explores what could happen if mother nature/the environment strikes back at humanity.</li> <li>● Eco-horror explores the consequences of environmental contamination, overpopulation, etc.</li> <li>● Eco-horror often contains fables/cautionary tales about humanities impact on the environment/ecosystem.</li> <li>● Common ideas/themes that are often a part of the eco-horror genre: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Revenge of Plants</li> <li>○ Natural disasters/Warnings for the future</li> <li>○ Humanities impact on the environment→ overpopulation, pollution</li> <li>○ Attacks by animals</li> <li>○ Mother nature</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Two Weeks

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Climate Catastrophes</li> <li>○ Dystopian elements</li> <li>● Eco-horror has its roots in the 1960s/1970s when there was a new era of environmental awareness. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Inspired the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency (1970).</li> <li>○ Expanded/new interest in early 2000 → extinction and endangered species.</li> <li>○ Depletion of natural resources: non-renewable resources, gasoline, etc.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Literary devices specific to this subgenre: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Mother Nature → Protagonist or Antagonist</li> <li>○ Man vs. Nature Archetype</li> <li>○ Metaphor/symbolism/ other figurative language.</li> <li>○ Motif→ Human relationship to nature.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Analyzing a common theme or idea throughout a variety of different contexts and mediums.</li> <li>● Analyzing a work for its use of metaphor, symbolism, allusions, and other forms of figurative language as a way in which to explore societies impact on the environment.</li> <li>● Evaluating how current societal fears/trends influenced the development of the eco-horror subgenre.</li> <li>● Analyzing literary devices that are specific to the eco-horror subgenre.</li> <li>● Incorporating a variety of different ideas/subgenres studied throughout the course in the development of one's own writing.</li> <li>● Using figurative language and other literary devices in the development of their own horror story.</li> <li>● Recognizing various motifs and symbols throughout a film or text and its role in the development of a theme.</li> <li>● Describing/analyzing specific choices made by an author or director in the creation of tone/mood/atmosphere.</li> </ul>	
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Throughout all units	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Film Reviews</li> <li>● Literary Journals picking out gothic elements</li> <li>● Writing alternate endings</li> </ul>	Throughout elective
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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Writing and drafting their own horror/gothic short story</li><li>● Figurative language and writing techniques used in horror/gothic writing</li><li>● 7 tips for writing horror</li><li>● Produce a gothic or horror themed short story</li><li>● Final portfolio</li><li>● Ghost Adventures</li></ul> |  |
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