SYLLABUS – INDEPENDENT STUDY:
HORROR CINEMA, 1996-2017

Instructor: Dr. Inga Meier
Email: meieri@sfasu.edu
Office Hours: M/W 11:00-12:30, T/TH 12:30-1:30
+ By Appointment
Office Location: GFA 222

Semester: Spring 2018
Course Number: 491.006
Meeting Time: TBD
Meeting Room: GFA 300
Mailbox: GFA 212B (M-F, 8 am-5 pm)

I. Course Description

This independent study will explore the history of Horror Cinema from 1996 to 2017.

II. Course Objectives

Program Learning Outcomes: This course applies at an introductory level to the following Program Learning Outcomes as identified by the School of Theatre:

- The student will demonstrate an understanding of film history and a variety of cinematic styles. (A,E, F)
- The student will be able to form and articulate a critical analysis and evaluation of a cinematic work. (A, E)

Student Learning Outcomes: Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

- articulate and describe the defining attributes of various film genres as they were practiced during different historical moments.
- identify significant movements, innovations, and figures in film history.
- demonstrate a richer basic knowledge of cinema and be able to place a film in its historical context.
- analyze a film in ways that are necessary to a film practitioner or scholar/critic.

III. Class Procedures and Policies

School of Theatre Attendance Policy: A career in the fine arts demands dedication and discipline; preparation for this career requires conscientious development of effective work habits. To this end, regular and punctual attendance is expected for all scheduled meetings.

1 You may refer to me as “Inga,” “Dr. Meier,” or “Ms. Meier.” You may not refer to me as “Prof,” “Professor Inga,” or “Doctor Inga.” If you insist on doing so, you are required to follow this wording with an acceptable title (e.g. “Yellow-Haired Warrior” or “Mother of Dragons”). When communicating with me over email, I expect you to use a formal address, to sign your email and to keep the tone of your email courteous and professional.
2 Emails are not an instantaneous form of communication. In other words, please do not send me an email 20 minutes before class and then approach me in class, asking if I received your email. On average, expect a 24-hour turnaround time. Also, emails sent through D2L will NOT be answered. Please use only the SFA address.
3 There is a sign up sheet for 15-minute slots on my door. If you wish to meet with me, please walk to my office door and sign up. You need not email me. However, if you are not available during office hours due to co-curricular conflicts, you may make an appointment outside of regular office hours. In other words, please don’t tell me, “I didn’t meet with you because I had class during your office hours.”
Further:

- It is University policy to excuse students from class attendance for certain reasons related to health, family emergencies, or student participation in approved university-sponsored events. Excused absences from theatre classes will only be granted upon presentation of written documentation from the teacher, sponsor, or physician involved upon the first day of the student’s return. In the case of absences caused by university-sponsored events, inclusion in the university’s public listing of such absences will constitute an official excuse. It is the student’s responsibility to inform the instructor that he/she has scheduled the planned official absence, in advance when possible.
- Students missing classes, other than university-sponsored trips, may contact the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities (OSRR) and request that an absence notification be sent to the instructor(s). The notification is not an excuse, and is not evaluated by OSRR. The notification is only provided as a courtesy to the student and the student's instructor(s). Students remain responsible for providing documentation in a timely manner to the instructor for each absence. The instructor determines whether such documentation is satisfactory.
- In the case of missed classes, you will be held responsible for the successful completion of assigned work and/or projects.
- A total of three excused and/or unexcused absences or deadlines will automatically result in a failing grade.

IV. Requirements

Research Paper: The central project for the duration of the semester will be a 15-page research paper. The actual writing process will be divided into multiple steps with separate due dates: topic / proposal, abstract, initial bibliography, annotated bibliography, rough draft and final draft. Your final grade for the paper will not be based solely on your final draft, but rather be determined by the accumulation of points via successful completion of the individual portions. The breakdown of these portions is as follows:

- topic / proposal: 50 points (due 2/6)
- abstract: 100 points (due 2/15)
- initial bibliography: 150 points (due 3/1)
- annotated bibliography: 150 points (due 3/22)
- rough draft: 200 points (due 4/5)
- final draft: 350 points (due 5/3)

(Please note: all assignments are due by 2:00 pm, in hard copy form, of the due date.)

In other words, you will be working on this project for the entirety of the semester and its grading will be calculated accordingly. (In other words, you won’t be able to pull an all-nighter the day before the paper is due.) Due dates are final dates by which you may hand in the necessary portion of the paper. A late penalty of 10 points will be applied for every day that a component is late. (Exceptions may be made in particular cases in accordance with the attendance policy.) You may however, hand in any portions earlier (and I encourage you to do so.) Further, you may hand in a revision of any portion (with the exception of the final draft, for which a revision will not be allowed) with the necessary adjustments at any point prior to the due date for the next portion or ask for additional feedback at any point during the process. Please note that if one of the components you hand in does not meet the minimum requirements for that component, you will
forfeit the right to improve your grade through revision for that component. (For example, if your abstract is required to be 350 words and you hand in 100 words, you will not only receive a low grade for that component, but you will also not be allowed to improve upon that grade for revision.) Should you perform a revision, and should your revision reflect actual improvement, I will re-grade that particular portion.

V. Grading Policies

Grading Scale:

Final Grades are assigned as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>900-1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>800-899</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>700-799</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>600-699</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>less than 600</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (A-54): Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

VI. Diversity

This class engages material covering a diverse range of race, color, appearance, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, age, marital status, familial status, gender, sexual orientation, and disability. While I encourage you to critically and analytically formulate and express relevant thoughts and opinions throughout the semester, discriminatory remarks will not be tolerated.

VII. Academic Integrity

Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit. Please read the complete policy at: http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/student_academic_dishonesty.pdf.

You are expected to be in full compliance with both the SFA policy and the School of Theatre policy:

SFA policy: Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of
academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

**School of Theatre policy:** The School of Theatre expects students to maintain the highest standards of academic conduct. Misrepresenting someone else's work as your own or knowingly allowing someone else to represent your work as his/hers constitutes academic dishonesty. Such behavior is antithetical to our work as scholars, as artists, and as members of a community founded on trust and mutual respect. It is an insult to faculty and an affront to honest students. Penalties for academic dishonesty may range from failure of a specific project to failure of the course, suspension from the production season for up to one year, and referral to university authorities for further action, which may include suspension or expulsion from the university.

**Please Note:** You are expected to be familiar with and able to demonstrate proper procedures for citations, following either MLA or Chicago Style guidelines, both of which are available online. Failure to cite sources is a form of academic dishonesty and will be treated accordingly. Further, turning in an assignment that you have turned in elsewhere is considered self-plagiarism and will be considered a form of academic dishonesty. I will trust that you are invested in your own education and will not cheat. However, this trust should not be confused for a lack of vigilance on my part. If you are caught, I will consider it a violation of personal trust and will not hesitate to penalize you to the fullest extent possible. I guarantee that the penalty you may incur for a late assignment will be less than the penalty for academic dishonesty.

**VIII. Student Code of Conduct**

**Acceptable Student Behavior:** Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (see the Student Conduct Code, policy D-34.1). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the Early Alert Program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed.

**IX. Concealed Carry**

The law states that any institution of higher learning “… may not adopt any rule, regulation, or other provision prohibiting license holders from carrying handguns on the campus of the institution.” As such, I cannot ban lethal weapons in the classroom, since none of our department’s spaces have been approved for any kind of prohibition. However, I request that you use your best judgment and consider the importance of preserving a safe classroom environment for all students, in accordance with the student code of conduct, which remains in effect. If you are licensed to carry a handgun and choose to do so on campus, it is requested that you consider refraining from doing so in the classroom. Should you choose to carry, your weapon must be concealed and in your possession (on your body or secured in a backpack or other type of bag) at all times. Should your weapon be visible at any time, you may be referred to campus security and your grade may be affected.

**X. Additional Information**
If you have a disability: To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities MUST contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.

Religious observance: If your observance of a religious holiday will prevent you from attending class, please contact me immediately so we can make appropriate arrangements.