Prerequisites:

I. Course Description:

This lecture course will serve as an introductory overview of the development of the horror film in modern cinema. We will trace its roots through its earliest beginnings analyzing the artistic, social and political ramifications of the period, up through the earliest sound-based efforts of the "talkie" motion picture. Students will be given information that links many of the surrounding conditions that contributed to what we consider today to be a viable genre of film, that once began as the "genre-that-never-existed". The goal of this course is to pique an interest in not only the historical, artistic and literate merits of a subject which students can relate to, but, to create an understanding of the conditions surrounding the subject that will then offer a larger "world view". By understanding the "bigger picture" to the phenomenon of early horror cinema, students can start to investigate and question the many surrounding subjects to the genre.

II. Intended Learning Outcomes/Goals/Objectives (Program/Student Learning Outcomes):

We will study, through lecture, interaction and viewing of the films themselves, what established the notions of the horror film and what possible explanations may exist as to why this genre came into being, thus influencing our modern perceptions of not only cinema, but society and our perceptions of reality.

A. Program Learning Outcomes:

1. Undergraduate students will comprehend basic principles, ideas and issues germane to the History of Art, through their foundation level art history instruction.
2. Undergraduate students will exhibit proficiency in the application of technical and problem solving skills appropriate to their designated concentration, as well as developing individual creativity: Art Education, Art History and Art Studio (Advertising Design, Art Metal/Jewelry,
Ceramics, Cinematography, Digital Media, Drawing, Painting, Photography, Printmaking, Sculpture).

B. Student Learning Outcomes:

1.-2. Through lecture and the study of the films students will be tested with 3 exams (1 for each section). These exams should reflect knowledge acquired in both the history of art as well as issues prudent to the studio artist as covered in class.

III. Course Assignments, Activities, Instructional Strategies, use of Technology:
Assignments consist of 3 exams. Technologies utilized in the course include use of our textbook, the library system, the internet, periodicals, and film study.

IV. Evaluation and Assessments (Grading):

  Attendance:  Being that class only meets on Fridays, students may only miss a single class session without hinderance to their grade. Upon the second absence, the student will drop a letter grade. Upon the third the student will drop one grade further. Beyond this is failure for the course.

  The Exams: There are 3 exams. Each is worth 25% of the total grade for the course. 25% of the grade is based on class attendance, participation and any other activities we pursue in the course, including keeping up with the readings, possible quizzes, etc. GRADUATE STUDENTS WILL ANSWER BOTH ESSAY QUESTIONS ON THE TESTS.

V. Tentative Course Outline/Calendar:

  Fall 2021 Calendar:
  Oct. 13-Mid-semester
  Nov. 20-28 Thanksgiving Holiday
  Dec. 6-10 Finals Week

August
September
10- “Nosferatu” film with powerpoint and lecture. Brief quiz and/or discussion on the readings.

17- “Metropolis” film with powerpoint and lecture. Optional topics for paper discussed and distributed. Assigned readings: CHAPTER 3: EUROPEAN EVIL.

24- First test: The German films.

October 1-
Begin second section:


22- Finish part II: “The Hunchback of Notre Dame” and other American films.

29- Second test: The Films of Lon Chaney and the Americans.

November


19- Lecture, discussion and scenes: “Frankenstein”. Assigned readings: CHAPTER 8: OLD DARK HOUSES.

26- NO CLASS. THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY.

December
3- Class review of all material in preparation for the final exam. Film clips from
the course may be reviewed.
10- Third test (final exam).

VI. Readings (Required and recommended—including texts, websites, articles, etc.):

The textbook for the course is required. The textbook may be purchased from our campus bookstore, or from an online source.

Below are two additional books that are recommended and are utilized as sources in the class. Students may purchase these as an option:


There are many books, in and out of print, that the student may find useful on the subject of early silent films. For earlier publications you will find it easier to seek-out books on the subject of silent cinema in general. Since the notion of “silent horror films” is a rather recent development among scholars, most of these films are given coverage in books that cover the entire range of “silent movies”.
Your textbook has an excellent bibliography in the back that will provide you with valuable sources for the class as well as your research paper.

VII. Course Evaluations:

“Near the conclusion of each semester, students in the School of Art electronically evaluate courses taken within the COFA. As you evaluate this course, please be thoughtful, thorough, and accurate in completing the evaluation. Please know that the COFA faculty is committed to excellence in teaching and continued improvement. Therefore, your response is critical!

In the School of Art, the course evaluation process has been simplified and is completed electronically through MySFA. Although the instructor will be able to view the names of students who complete the survey, all ratings and comments are confidential and anonymous, and will not be available to the instructor until after final grades are posted.

VIII. Student Ethics and Other Policy Information:

Attendance: Being that class only meets on Fridays, students may only miss a
single class session without hinderance to their grade. Upon the second absence, the student will drop a letter grade. Upon the third the student will drop one grade further. Beyond this is failure for the course. Class will start on time. Later than 5 minutes into the course and you will miss film screenings and crucial lecture material. In addition, you are considered tardy for class. Tardiness, leaving class early and similar behavior is considered when your grade is figured.

Cell Phones, Talking and Sleeping:
You are not allowed to use a cell phone in this class. They are a distraction to others around you and have no place in a classroom. I will strictly enforce this. Repeated warnings about your phone will result in an adverse affect to your grade. Technological pursuits during the lecture and film is prohibited. This includes (but is not limited to) calling and texting it also includes the use of iPods and other musical devices.

Laptop computers may not be used during non-testing phases to take notes. There is no way I can monitor computer behavior while teaching the course because of the physical structure of the lecture hall. Notes shall be taken in the tried and true method: By hand (and please do not focus on note-taking during the film screenings). In short, computer behavior, not directed, is prohibited during class time.

Talking during the lecture phase or during film screenings is prohibited. You will be asked to leave the class on repeated warnings.

I can provide you with a wealth of information, but you have to do your part as the student to internalize and utilize what you’ve learned. If you sleep you miss the material: Simple as that.

Film viewings are broken into two segments. This allows for a short break for use of the restroom facilities, drinking and snacking and any and all phone activity. This break is no longer than 10 minutes in length. Please do not eat or drink in the classroom (bottled water is permissible).

Students with Disabilities

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/.
Academic Integrity

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 polity on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty
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 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/academic_integrity.asp

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.

Mental Health and Wellness

SFA values students’ mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. SFA provides a variety resources to support students’ mental health and wellness. Many of these resources are free, and all of them are confidential.

On-campus Resources:
SFA Counseling Services
www.sfasu.edu/counselingservices
Rusk Building, 3rd Floor
936.468.2401
SFA Human Services Counseling Clinic
www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp
Human Services, Room 202
936.468.1041
Crisis Resources:
Burke 24-hour crisis line: 1.800.392.8343
Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1.800.273.TALK (8255)
Crisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741