

**FACULTY OF ARTS**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH**  
**COURSE OUTLINE**

**ENGLISH 388.8: Supernatural Horror in Literature**  
(TR 11:00-12:15, ENG 230)

Fall 2017

**Instructor:** Dr. Anthony Camara  
**Office:** SS 1110  
**Phone:** 403-220-4684  
**E-mail:** anthony.camara@ucalgary.ca  
**Office Hours:** T 13:15-14:15

**Course Description:** This class interrogates the relationship between horror literature and philosophy, taking seriously the notion that this often-maligned genre thinks with a high degree of conceptual sophistication about the nature of the cosmos, biological life, and human psychology. Works of horror, we will see, do not simply espouse philosophical worldviews, but more importantly produce and explore philosophical problems. The overarching goal of this class is to cultivate an analytical and scholarly perspective towards this critically under-appreciated body of fiction. In doing so, we will address the following questions: what is it about the horrifying that fascinates us? Why are we drawn to horror in movies, literature, and graphic novels? Can horror make effective moral and ethical prescriptions? Might such works attempt to change our attitudes towards others who are different than us, towards ecosystems, and towards the inhuman life forms that inhabit them? Or maybe horror has no edifying intentions. Perhaps it reveals to us a frightening vision of a cosmos indifferent to, or even hostile towards, human life. We will also be examining how major historical developments in philosophy, science, and technology have shaped the horror genre. How do theories as diverse as Darwinian evolution and quantum physics influence the literature of the supernatural? Issues of race and gender will be crucial to our discussions as well. How do horror writers transform a corpus of works occasionally marred by racism and sexism? This class will introduce you to a broad range of texts across a variety of literary genres and time periods, and enable you think about, interpret, and discuss them in a rigorous and scholarly fashion.

**Texts and readings:**

- Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein* (Norton)
- Arthur Machen, *The Great God Pan and The Hill of Dreams* (Broadview)
- Richard Marsh, *The Beetle* (Broadview)
- H. P. Lovecraft, *At the Mountains of Madness and Other Tales of Terror* (Del Rey)
- Shirley Jackson, *The Haunting of Hill House* (Penguin)
- Charles Burns, *Black Hole* (Pantheon)
- Course reader available from Bound & Copied
- Course also includes screenings of Robert Wise's *The Haunting* and Drew Goddard's *The Cabin in the Woods*.

**Assignments and Evaluation:**

- Class participation and attendance: 10%
- Midterm Examination: 20%
- Critical Reader Responses (2 responses, 750 words, 25% apiece): 50%
- Final Examination: 20%

**Class Participation and Attendance:** Attendance and active participation are essential to the success of this course. Attendance and participation are both worth 5% of your grade. Attendance will be monitored regularly and participation will be evaluated according to engagement in interactive activities and class discussions. Any unexcused absences in excess of two class periods will reduce the final class participation and attendance grade by 20% per absence.

Sample grading rubric for participation component:

A = Student engages in all small-group activities, and frequently contributes thoughtful comments and questions to class discussions that enhance understanding of the texts being studied.

B = Student engages in most of the activities and occasionally offers a comment or question in class.

C = Student shows little to no evidence of engagement in activities and/or class discussions.

**Midterm Examination:** This closed-book exam covers reading and lecture material and is comprised of multiple-choice questions about the works on the syllabus. Questions cover contextual, formal, thematic, stylistic, and philosophical features of the readings.

**Critical Reader Responses:** Over the course of the quarter, students complete two critically engaged writing activities that investigate texts on the syllabus. Although these assignments are creative and exploratory, responses must nevertheless meet standards of acceptability for turned-in, written work at the U of C. That is to say, papers are evaluated according to clarity, organization, grammatical fluency, and argumentative sophistication. The responses must use a close-reading based interpretive approach in order to generate an argument about a text. All responses should identify a critical problem or question that a text poses, suggest an answer to it, and then explain the significance of that answer to how one reads and interprets the text. The two reader responses should cover works from roughly the first and second parts of the course, respectively.

**Final Exam:** The registrar-scheduled final examination is a closed-book exam that covers reading and lecture material and is comprised of multiple-choice questions about the works on the syllabus. Questions cover contextual, formal, thematic, stylistic, and philosophical features of the readings. The final examination period begins on December 11th and continues through the 21st. Students must be available for examinations through the final day of the examination period.

**Additional Class Policies:**

- It is necessary to complete all course assignments in order to receive a passing grade.

- If the course is to be worthwhile, students must come to lecture prepared to engage with the texts, their fellow classmates, and the instructor. Therefore, students should complete all assigned readings before class and bring the relevant texts to each lecture. To prepare for class, students are advised to read actively at home by annotating their books and making a list of questions and compelling ideas as they progress through the course readings.
- There are no extra credit assignments.
- Make-up assignments, excused absences, and extensions will only be issued by the instructor in the event of extenuating circumstances.
- Assignments must be submitted to the instructor at the beginning of the class period on the date that they are due. The late penalty for assignments is 10% per day, which includes weekends and holidays. Note that late assignments will receive little, if any, feedback. Assignments more than four days late will not be accepted.
- Please turn in assignments directly to the instructor. If it is not possible to do so due to extenuating circumstances such as an emergency, take the assignment to SS 1152 and put it in the departmental dropbox; assignments will be date-stamped and placed in the instructor's mailbox. Students should retain a copy of all assignments in the event that they are lost. Assignments cannot be returned by staff in the departmental office. Additionally, it is the student's responsibility to ensure that assignments submitted via dropbox are received by the instructor.
- Electronic submission of assignments is not permitted.
- Students are prohibited from using cellular phones and/or recording devices during lecture. Students are most welcome to use word-processing devices to take notes during class, but should not be using them to surf the internet, listen to music, email, text, etc.

### Grading System:

90 + %	A+	4.0
85 – 89 %	A	4.0
80 – 84 %	A–	3.7
77 – 79 %	B+	3.3
74 – 76 %	B	3.0
70 – 73 %	B–	2.7
67 – 69 %	C+	2.3
64 – 66 %	C	2.0
60 – 63 %	C–	1.7
55 – 59 %	D+	1.3
50 – 54 %	D	1.0
0 – 49 %	F	0

A+/A (4.0); A- (3.7); B+ (3.3); B (3.0); B- (2.7); C+ (2.3); C (2.0); C- (1.7); D+ (1.3); D (1.0); F (0)

Please note that, according to the University Calendar (F.1), instructors may use their discretion when rounding upwards or downwards when the average of term work and exams is between two letter grades.

Although the A+ is solely an honorific that entails no additional points in the four-point system, the course instructor will employ this mark to distinguish superlative work that exceeds expectations in style, correctness, intellectual depth and breadth, sophistication, and originality.

**Plagiarism:**

Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possible

suspension or expulsion from the university. Please refer to the following information and make sure you are familiar with the statement below on plagiarism.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2-1.html>

**Scribe and Muse Club for English Students:**

The Scribe and Muse Reading and Writing Club (SMRWC) fosters and champions reading and writing through community service, leadership, and engagement. We strive to enhance the academic and social experience of undergraduate students by promoting academic excellence and interaction between students, faculty, and the community, through social, cultural, and academic events <http://english.ucalgary.ca/scribe-and-muse-english-club>. Our email address is [smecuofc@gmail.com](mailto:smecuofc@gmail.com).

**English Department Website:**

For more information about courses, programs, policies, events and contacts in the Department of English, please go to our website at <http://english.ucalgary.ca>. Please note that the course outlines posted on the English Department website constitute the official course outline for purposes of appeals. Students should verify any hard copies against this posted version. For courses which employ numerical grades, the official departmental percentage to letter grade conversion scale is also posted on the department website.

**Writing support:**

The Student Success Centre offers both online and workshop writing support for U of C students. <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>

**Guidelines on e-mail Etiquette:**

<https://gsa.ucalgary.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Email-Etiquette.pdf>

**Library and Research Support:**

Christie Hurrell, Interim Librarian for English, offers research support to students, including strategies for finding articles, books, and other library materials. Contact:

[christie.hurrell@ucalgary.ca](mailto:christie.hurrell@ucalgary.ca).

Find The English Pages research guide here: <http://libguides.ucalgary.ca/english>

**Follow the Department of English on Facebook & Twitter:**



**Academic regulations and schedules:**

Consult the Calendar for course information, university and faculty regulations, dates, deadlines and schedules, student, faculty and university rights and responsibilities. The homepage for the University Calendar is

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/index.htm>

**Grade appeals:**

Consult the following University Calendar link and request advice from the English Department office, SS 1152. Please note that “mere dissatisfaction with a decision is not sufficient grounds for the appeal of a grade or other academic decision.”

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i.html>

**Deferral of term work and final examinations:**

Should you require an extension for completion of term papers or assignments beyond the deadline of five days after the end of lectures, an Application of Deferment of Term Work form must be completed. The University also has regulations governing the deferral of final examinations. See Calendar: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-6.html>, <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-7.html>.

**Student Accommodations:****ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS**

The student accommodation policy can be found at: [ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy](http://ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy).

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities [ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy](http://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy).

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the course instructor.

The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at [http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy\\_0.pdf](http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf).

**Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points:**

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>;

**Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act:**

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip/>

**“Safewalk” Program:**

Campus Security will escort individuals day or night: call 220-5333 for assistance. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot pay booths.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk/>

**Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources:**

Have a question, but not sure where to start? The new Arts Students' Centre (ASC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS102, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at [ascarts@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ascarts@ucalgary.ca). You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.

For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre (formerly the Undergraduate programs Office) at (403) 220-5881 or visit them in their new space on the 3rd Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.

**Contact for Students Union Representatives for the Faculty of Arts:**

[arts1@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca),  
[arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts4@su.ucalgary.ca)

**Contact for Students Ombudsman's Office:**

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>

**Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI):**

"At the University of Calgary, feedback provided by students through the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) survey provides valuable information to help with evaluating instruction, enhancing learning and teaching, and selecting courses ([www.ucalgary.ca/usri](http://www.ucalgary.ca/usri)). Your responses make a difference - please participate in USRI Surveys.

## **PLAGIARISM**

Plagiarism is an extremely serious offence. Please read the following information carefully. The penalty routinely recommended by the English Department for documented plagiarism is failure of the course in which the offence occurred; academic probation is also routinely applied at the Faculty level. Suspension or expulsion can result from severe or repeated plagiarism.

The University Calendar states:

1. Plagiarism - Essentially plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Most commonly plagiarism exists when:

- (a) ) the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test),
- (b) parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author,
- (c) ) the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source, and/or,
- (d) a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted.

Plagiarism occurs when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement, or when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. Citing your sources in a bibliography is not enough, because a bibliography does not establish which parts of a student's work are taken from other sources. MLA (Modern Language Association) documentation or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose. Advice on adequate documentation can be found at the following web sites:

<http://www.dianahacker.com/resdoc/>

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

## **DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH STATEMENT ON PRINCIPLES OF CONDUCT**

According to the University Calendar, (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/j.html>) "The University of Calgary community has undertaken to be guided by the following statements of purpose and values: to promote free inquiry and debate, to act as a community of scholars, . . . , to respect, appreciate, and encourage diversity, [and] to display care and concern for community". The Department of English, like the university as a whole, is committed to a "positive and productive learning and working environment." This environment is characterized by appreciation and encouragement of diversity and respect for the dignity of all persons: students, support staff, and faculty. The department will not tolerate unacceptable behaviour, such as threatening gestures, threatening or abusive verbal or written communication (including e-mails), or any conduct that "seriously disrupts the lawful education and related activities of students and/or university staff". Any cases of such misconduct should be reported immediately to the department Head, who, depending on the nature and severity of the incident, may then take further appropriate action.