INTRODUCTION

What makes you laugh, cry, or cover your eyes when you watch certain movies? Why is it appealing to get scared, feel nervous, or be grossed out? What broader creative and cultural forces might be at work in films that seem to be simple, formulaic entertainment? In this course, we will look at how and why horror and suspense films create particular reactions, as well as consider theories about the cultural function of sensational or emotionally-provocative films.

This course is designed to give you tools for exploring film from a number of perspectives, including:

- The language of film production and analysis
- An introduction to the concepts of genre and convention
- An overview of various critical approaches to film and film audiences

Often people worry that analyzing movies takes the fun out of them. Through this course, I hope you will discover that understanding how movies work and what kind of work movies do can make us appreciate and enjoy them even more.

REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS

Texts:


Miscellaneous:

- Printing and copying costs for any drafts and PDF readings
- Headphones
- Blank CD-Rs for saving projects
MAJOR ASSIGNMENTS AND OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES

ATTENDANCE

Come to class. To meet the requirements of the class, you must be present to participate in these activities and in class discussion. You have five absences that should be used (or reserved) to cover illness or unexpected emergencies. If you miss more than five classes, your final grade will be decreased by 1/2 grade per absence. If you must miss class, send me an email memo prior to your absence. You are responsible for any material covered or due on the date you missed.

Film Screenings: Screenings are an important part of your class homework (and fun, too). Even if you've already seen the film, you will be viewing it for academic purposes and will have a better experience in the class if you watch it on a big screen without interruptions. Most likely, the screening will take place from 6 – 8 p.m. on Wednesdays in Walker 134, although if as a class we find a time we like better (and a place that's available), that could change.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADE DISTRIBUTION

IMPORTANT NOTE: Each project will have subsidiary due dates for drafts and revision. Late work will not be accepted unless arrangements have been made prior to due date. The calendar on the course website contains specific information about assignments, activities and other deadlines.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSIGNMENTS</th>
<th>GRADE PERCENTAGE</th>
<th>FINAL VERSION DUE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shot analysis of film sequence</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Sept. 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Textual Storyboard +</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Sept. 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critical Reading Script (teams)</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>As assigned</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Film Analysis Paper</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Oct. 21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussion, Response, and Class Presentations</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>various</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Clip selection and presentation for one film (teams) (5%)</td>
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<td>- Active participation in discussion and peer group work (10%)</td>
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<td>- Email or web-logged responses to films or questions (10%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>I-Movie Research Project (team)</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>Dec. 9</td>
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Help with Writing

I strongly encourage you to use the Writing Center and invite you to come see me as well. Writing is a process that involves planning, writing, revising, thinking, rethinking, and rewriting. No matter how successful you have been as a writer, you will benefit from a chance to discuss your work with more experienced writing coaches. I build a process into my syllabus to help you succeed as writers in my course. The Writing Center can help you develop as a writer this semester and throughout your college career.

About Plagiarism and Intellectual Property

Turn in your own work. If you are caught cheating (e.g., plagiarizing from the internet or other sources, turning in a purchased essay or someone else's work) you will fail the course. If you're not sure how to use other sources, always ask for help before submitting your work. This is a very serious offense that will have consequences beyond my classroom.

The Americans with Disabilities Act

MTU complies with all federal and state laws and regulations regarding discrimination, including the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). If you have a disability and need a reasonable accommodation for equal access to education or services at MTU, please call Dr. Gloria Melton, Associate Dean of Students (7-2212). For other concerns about discrimination, you may contact your advisor, your department head, or the Affirmative Action Office (7-3310).

And, finally . . .

The syllabus and website are meant as a guide to the course. I reserve the right to revise assignments and deadlines, but I will always give you notice and a reason. Generally, such changes will occur in order to help you.