

EN2H2-30 American Horror Story: U.S. Gothic Cultures, 1619 to Tomorrow

26/27

Department

English and Comparative Literary Studies

Level

Undergraduate Level 2

Module leader

Stephen Shapiro

Credit value

30

Module duration

20 weeks

Assessment

100% coursework

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

The module aims to give students a detailed textual and theoretical grounding in the horror/gothic genre in the United States.

[Module web page](#)

Module aims

The module aims to give students a detailed textual and theoretical grounding in the horror/gothic genre in the United States.

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

Term 1

1. Introduction
 2. Candyman (dir. Bernard Rose, 1992); The Pruitt-Igoe Myth (2011, dr. Chad Friedrichs)
 3. HP Lovecraft, "The Horror at Red Hook"; Victor Lavalle, The Ballad of Black Tom (2016) "Teddy Perkins" (episode 6, season 2) from Atlanta.
 4. The Shining (dir. Stanley Kubrick, 1980); EA Poe, "The Fall of the House of Usher"
 5. Rosemary's Baby (Roman Polanski, 1968)
 6. Shirley Jackson, The Haunting of Hill House (1959)
 7. Vampire Lesbians of Sodom (1984); The Hunger (1983)
 8. James Dickey, Deliverance (1970); Deliverance (dir. John Boorman, 1972)
 9. Texas Chainsaw Massacre (dir. Tobe Hooper, 1974)
- Term 2
10. I Walked with a Zombie (Jacques Tourneur, 1943); Leopard Man (Jacques Tourneur, 1943)
 11. George Romero, Night of the Living Dead (1968)
 12. Silvia Moreno-Garcia, Mexican Gothic (2020)
 13. William Faulkner, Absalom, Absalom (1936)
 14. William Faulkner, Absalom, Absalom (1936)
 15. The Manchurian Candidate (John Frankenheimer, 1962)
 16. Nathaniel Hawthorne, 'Young Goodman Brown' (1835); The Witch (Robert Eggers, 2015)
 17. Group video discussion (even for second years who did not have this assignment).

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate coherent and detailed knowledge of selected texts and concepts relating to the U.S. horror/gothic cultures;
- Deploy advanced analytical and critical skills through close reading/viewing of the set texts;
- Demonstrate a conceptual understanding that enables the development and sustaining of a critical argument
- Describe and comment on recent research and/or scholarship in subject
- Display an appreciation of the uncertainty, ambiguity, and contradictions within US gothic cultural productions
- Make appropriate use of scholarly reviews and primary sources
- Exhibit an advanced command of written English together with a wide-ranging and accurate vocabulary
- Apply confident textual analysis and fluent critical argument to initiate and carry out an extended essay
- Conduct independent research through self-formulated questions
- Produce work that displays the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring the exercise of personal responsibility and decision-making, along with collective engagement
- Deploy the expression and communication of ideas across media forms

Indicative reading list

[Reading lists can be found in Talis](#)

Subject specific skills

- Acquire knowledge of key theoretical and literary concepts and cultural and critical contexts within which to situate the set texts;
- Formulate analytical and critical skills through close reading/viewing of the set texts;
- Adjust to scholarly standards and protocols of presentation;
- Employ a main method for reading texts within the context of US horror/gothic cultures;
- Demonstrate a broad knowledge of selected texts and concepts relating to the U.S. horror/gothic cultures;
- Indicate a broad understanding of critical, analytic, and creative approaches to produce knowledge;
- Exhibit an effective command of written English together with a wide-ranging and accurate vocabulary;
- Display textual analysis and critical argument;
- Conduct independent research through self-formulated questions.

Transferable skills

- Acquire knowledge of key theoretical and literary concepts and cultural and critical contexts within which to situate the set texts;
 - Formulate analytical and critical skills through close reading/viewing of the set texts;
 - Adjust to scholarly standards and protocols of presentation;
 - Indicate a broad understanding of critical, analytic, and creative approaches to produce knowledge;
 - Exhibit an effective command of written English together with a wide-ranging and accurate vocabulary;
 - Display textual analysis and critical argument;
 - Conduct independent research through self-formulated questions.
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Study

Study time

Type	Required
Seminars	18 sessions of 1 hour 30 minutes (9%)
Online learning (independent)	(0%)
Private study	273 hours (91%)
Total	300 hours

Private study description

Preparation and group projects.

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You do not need to pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Assessment group A5

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Assessment component			
Essay 2 Written essay from list of questions	40%		Yes (extension)
Reassessment component is the same			
Assessment component			
Essay 1 Written essay from list of questions	40%		Yes (extension)
Reassessment component is the same			
Assessment component			
Past essay revision Reflect on and revise the first c.300 words of a previous essay, guided by published prompts	20%		Yes (extension)
Reassessment component is the same			

Feedback on assessment

Written comments; opportunity for further oral feedback in office hours

Availability

Courses

This module is Core optional for:

- Year 2 of UCXA-QQ39 Undergraduate English and Classical Civilisation

This module is Optional for:

- Year 2 of UENA-Q300 Undergraduate English Literature
- Year 2 of UENA-QP36 Undergraduate English Literature and Creative Writing
- Year 2 of UENA-VQ32 Undergraduate English and History
- Year 2 of UENA-VQ34 Undergraduate English and History (with a term in Venice)
- Year 2 of UTHA-QW34 Undergraduate English and Theatre Studies
- Year 2 of UFIA-QW25 Undergraduate Film and Literature
- Year 4 of UFIA-QW26 Undergraduate Film and Literature (with Study Abroad)
- Year 2 of UPHA-VQ52 Undergraduate Philosophy, Literature and Classics

This module is Option list C for:

- Year 2 of UCXA-QQ37 Undergraduate Classics and English

This module is Option list D for:

- Year 2 of UPHA-VQ72 Undergraduate Philosophy and Literature