

# **COURSE SYLLABUS**

## **ENG460: Horror and Thriller**

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### **Course Description**

An analytical study of modern horror and thriller literature, emphasizing the contributions made by each of the standard elements of fiction-plot, characterization, setting, point of view and theme-to the visceral impact of the genre. Warning: This course requires discussions on materials that contain adult themes and language.

*Please Note:* This course includes the viewing of films that contain violent and sexual content. If anyone feels uncomfortable viewing this material please contact me to make arrangements to complete alternative assignments.

### **General Course Information**

Number of Units/Weeks	4/10
#Hours Lecture/#Hours Laboratory/#Hours Homework	40/0/80
Prerequisite(s)	ENG 110
Co-requisites (s)	None
Course Developer(s)	Vani Neelakantan/Ryan Willingham
Date Approved / Last Review	December 2013 / May 2016

### **Learning Outcomes**

- Describe the key elements of horror and thriller literature
- Critique primary components of a plot and plot devices in horror fiction and film
- Evaluate symbolism, imagery, and, themes
- Analyze setting, foreshadowing, characters, and archetypes in horror literature

### **Instructional Methods Employed in this Course**

- Lecture and reading assignments
- Hands-on exercises and labs
- Practical application of theory and skills in authentic writing projects
- Build on prior knowledge and experience of students to enhance richness of class activities

### **Course Policies and Contact Information**

- Contact information: Ryan Willingham email: [rwillingham@coleman.edu](mailto:rwillingham@coleman.edu)
- Office Hours: Thursday June 6<sup>th</sup>, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, and July 14<sup>th</sup> in the Library Lounge Area from 3:50-5:50 PM.

- Participation: Students are required to attend class promptly on time, and to remain for the entirety of every class period. If a student arrives late, is late returning from break, or leaves early they will lose points from the participation portion of their grade. Students who actively are involved in group work, keep up with the assignments and readings, and answer questions in class will earn high participation.
- Students are expected to act professionally while in class. Students will not check or use their cell phones or computers for anything but reading their e-books for the assigned readings. If a student is caught using their phone for anything else, they will lose participation points. Student could be asked to leave class, and receive an absence for the day if the problem happens repeatedly throughout a class period. Students are expected to speak professionally in class by refraining from swearing during class discussion or in their written work.

### Information Resources for this Course:



#### **Textbook**

Joshi, S. (Ed.). (2013). American Supernatural Tales. New York, New York: Penguin.

Hill, J. (2008). 20<sup>th</sup> Century Ghosts. New York, New York: Harper-Collins Publishers



#### **Web Site Readings**

The Horror Writers Association

<http://www.horror.org/>

Literature of the Fantastic - an online resource of public domain horror stories:

<http://www.sff.net/people/DoyleMacdonald/lit.htm>

## **Table/Topics & Assignments**

### **Types of Assignments:**

#### **Lecture -**

Considered Lecture Hours

#### **Classroom Discussion -**

Considered Lecture Hours

#### **In Class Critique -**

Considered Lecture Hours

#### **Delivering Oral Presentations -**

Considered Lecture Hours

#### **In Class (IC) Exercise -**

Considered Lecture Hours

**Reading -**

Considered Homework (HW), work done outside of class

**Web Class lesson (non-online courses) -**

Considered Homework (HW), work done outside of class

**Lab Work -**

Considered Lab Hours

**Quiz, Midterm or Final -**

Considered Lecture Hours

Week 1						
Type	Topic/Description	LEC Hours	LAB Hours	HW Hours	Point Value	Due
LEC 1A	Introduction to Course Materials	1				
LEC 1B	Introduction to Thriller and Horror	2				
LEC 1C	Library Workshop	1				
HW 1A	Read "The Fog Horn," and "The Fall of the House of Usher," and "The Call of Cthulhu" in <i>American Supernatural</i>			9		
HW 1C	Favorite Story Summary			1	50	Week 2
HW 1D	Reading Response			1	50	Week 2
Total Week 1		4	0	11	100	
Week 2						
Type	Topic/Description	LEC Hours	LAB Hours	HW Hours	Point Value	Due
LEC 2A	Settings of Horror and Foreshadowing	3				
HW 2A	Read "Night Surf," in <i>American Supernatural</i> and "You Will Hear the Locust Sing," and "Abraham's Boys"			8.5		
ELP 2B	Movie Analysis			3	200	Week 5 Outline Due Week 3
ELP 2A	Movie Analysis Outline			1	50	Week 3
Total Week 2		4	0	12.5	250	

**Week 3**

Type	Topic/Description	LEC Hours	LAB Hours	HW Hours	Point Value	Due
IC EX 3B	Peer Review Movie Analysis Outline	1				
LEC 3A	Characters and Archetypes in the Horror Story	2				
HW 3A	Read "What was it?" "The Yellow Sign," and "The Lonesome Place" in <i>American Supernatural</i>			5		
ELP 3D	Reading Response			1	50	Week 4
Total Week 3		4	0	6	50	

**Week 4**

Type	Topic/Description	LEC Hours	LAB Hours	HW Hours	Point Value	Due
LEC 4A	Types of Narrative Perspective (POV)	3				
HW 4A	Read "Pop Art," "My Father's Mask," "Last Breath," and "Dead Wood"			9		
Total Week 4		4	0	9	0	

**Week 5**

Type	Topic/Description	LEC Hours	LAB Hours	HW Hours	Point Value	Due
LEC 5A	Primary Components of a Plot and Plot Devices	1.5				
HW 5A	Read "The Girl with the Hungry Eyes," "A Visit," and "The Events at Porothe Farms" in <i>American Supernatural</i>			7		
ELP 5A	Reading response			1	50	Week 6
Total Week 5		4	0	8	50	

**Week 6**

Type	Topic/Description	LEC Hours	LAB Hours	HW Hours	Point Value	Due
LEC 6A	Literary Symbolism	1				
LEC 6B	Literary Theme	1				
HW 6A	Read "Best New Horror," "The Cape," "The Black Phone"			6		

ELP 6C	Reading Response			1	50	Week 7
Total Week 6		4	0	7	50	
<b>Week 7</b>						
Type	Topic/Description	LEC Hours	LAB Hours	HW Hours	Point Value	Due
LEC 7A	Revenge Themes in Horror Fiction & Film	3				
HW 7A	Read "Adventure of the German Student" and "Demon" in <i>American Supernatural</i> and "Voluntarily Committed"			5		
ELP 7A	Reading response			1	50	Week 8
ELP 7D	Final Paper			6	300	Week 9
Total Week 7		4	0	12	350	
<b>Week 8</b>						
Type	Topic/Description	LEC Hours	LAB Hours	HW Hours	Point Value	Due
LEC 8A	Sexual Imagery in Horror	3				
HW 8A	Read "Endless Night," "Hollow Man," "The Late Shift," and "Black Bargain" in <i>American Supernatural</i> and "20 <sup>th</sup> Century Ghosts"			8.5		
Total Week 8		4	0	8.5	0	
<b>Week 9</b>						
Type	Topic/Description	LEC Hours	LAB Hours	HW Hours	Point Value	Due
LEC 9A	Philosophical Perspectives on the Concept of Evil	3				
HW 9A	Read "The Late Shift" in <i>American Supernatural</i> and "In the Rundown"			3		
ELP 9A	Final Power point presentations			4	100	Week 10
Total Week 9		4	0	7	100	
<b>Week 10</b>						
Type	Topic/Description	LEC Hours	LAB Hours	HW Hours	Point Value	Due
LEC 10A	Past and Current Trends in Horror	4				
Total Week 10	Presentation responses	0	0	3	0	

## Course Hours Summary

Week	Topic	LEC Time	LAB Time	HW Time
1	Introduction to Thriller and Horror	4	0	11
2	Settings of Horror and Foreshadowing	4	0	12.5
3	Character and Archetypes in the Horror Story	4	0	6
4	Types of Narrative Perspective (POV)	4	0	9
5	Primary Components of a Plot and Plot Devices	4	0	8
6	Literary Symbolism and Literary Theme	4	0	7
7	Revenge Themes in Horror Film and Fiction	4	0	12
8	Sexual Imagery in Horror	4	0	8.5
9	Philosophical Perspectives on the Concept of Evil	4	0	6.5
10	Past and Current Trends in Horror	4	0	0
Total		40	0	80.5

## Table/Point Breakdown

Week	Assignment	Possible Points	Percent of Grade
2	Favorite Story Summary	50	5%
2	Reading Response #1	50	5%
3	Movie Analysis Outline	50	5%
5	Movie Analysis Midterm	200	20%
3	Reading Response #2	50	5%
4	Reading Response #3	50	5%
6	Reading Response #4	50	5%
7	Reading Response #5	50	5%
9	Final Paper	300	30%
10	Final Power Point Presentations	100	10%
	Participation	50	5%
Total		1000	100%

## Your Grades for this Course

Your final grade for this course will be based on an assessment by the Instructor of your performance on a number of course activities, which may include objective tests, classroom exercises, laboratory demonstrations, project papers, or other types of activities. The chart below indicates in what activities you will engage, how many possible points can be earned for each activity, and the percentage of your final grade that will be accounted for by each activity.

Students in this course should be graded following Coleman University assessment practices and policies. A point system is used in the University to indicate student performance on various required activities or projects. For this course, it is recommended that points be distributed as follows:

**Coleman University Grade Assignment Policy:**

Percent	Letter Grade	Grade Points
94-100	A	4
90-93	A-	3.67
87-89	B+	3.33
84-86	B	3
80-83	B-	2.67
77-79	C+	2.33
74-76	C	2
70-73	C-	1.67
67-69	D+	1.33
64-66	D	1
60-63	D-	0.67
N/A	INC	0
N/A	W	0
60 or above	CR	0
59 or below	NC	0
N/A	I	0
N/A	W	0
N/A	AU	0
N/A	TR	0
N/A	WV	0

Legend	
CR = Credit	NC = No Credit
I = Incomplete	W = Course Withdrawal
AU = Audit	TR = Transfer Credit
WV = Waiver	

**Academic Accommodation / Adjustment Policy:**

In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Coleman University offers accommodations to students with documented physical, psychological, and/or cognitive disabilities. Coleman University will adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to offer equal educational opportunities to qualified disabled individuals.

To qualify for an academic accommodation under ADA, the student must provide adequate documentation of a disability. Students seeking academic accommodations should contact the campus ADA Coordinator at 858-966-3953 or via email at [ada@coleman.edu](mailto:ada@coleman.edu). The ADA Coordinator will review the documentation provided and verify ADA coverage. Students covered under ADA must meet with the ADA Coordinator at the beginning of every term to determine the appropriate academic accommodations. Failing to meet with the ADA Coordinator at the beginning of every term may impact the availability of accommodations.

After the academic accommodations have been determined, the students' instructors will be notified by the ADA Coordinator. If any problems or concerns regarding the provision of accommodations occur, the student must inform the ADA Coordinator. If the student feels accommodation is not being made appropriately, the student may follow the published Student Grievance Procedures.