## Seneca College of Applied Arts & Technology

**School of English & Liberal Studies**

**FINAL EXAMINATION**

**Course Title: In Search of the Paranormal Term: Summer 2021**

**Course Code: CUL604 Value: 25%**

**Professor: Carla Ionescu Time:**

**Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Irene Kanurkas, Chair, School of English & Liberal Studies**

**Student Name: Md Rafi Al Arabi Bhuiyan**

**Student Number: 147307193**

**EXAMINATION AIDS PERMITTED (check applicable boxes)**

No Additional Material Allowed

Scrap Paper (to be handed in)  Notes

Dictionary - English only, printed  Calculators (non-programmable only)

Textbooks  Formula Sheets (attached)

Please Specify: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**INSTRUCTIONS**

**FILM: The Conjuring (2013)**

**Part I:**

1. **Suppose someone said, "You wrote about *The Conjuring* for the final exam in your film course! I saw that movie. It was entertaining--uplifting and all that, and yeah, I know it won a bunch of academy awards. But why would anyone want to pay it special attention?" How would you respond (and thus demonstrate the benefits of paranormal studies)?**

The film begins with a scenario at a conference organized by Ed Warren and Lorraine, both well-known specialists in paranormal cases or studies. In 1971, Roger Perron and his wife Carolyn, as well as their five daughters Nancy, Christine, Andrea, Cindy, and April, moved to an ancient house in a remote area of Rhode Island. Their dog "Sadie" refused to enter the house on the first day, and the next day it was found dead, beginning off the paranormal occurrences. Following that, they experienced more paranormal activities by the spirits in the house, as well as horrific sounds of clapping and door opening and knocking, which were extremely frightening. Carolyn, the mother, then met with Ed Warren and Lorraine to seek advice or a solution to put an end to these activities and they agreed to come to the house. They could feel the house was haunted by demons as soon as they entered, and they knew there were many more demonic activities taking place here, so they began working on these issues with the help of another two friends, Drew and Brad, to find a cure and to convince the church that the house of the Perron family is in desperate need of an exorcism.

In contrast, some particular causes can attract viewers' attention, such as the film being based on a true story, which makes the film or true story more interesting. On the other hand, all of the characters were excellent in their roles, making the scenarios appear extremely realistic, and the film was more focused on investigation techniques as they gathered evidence, such as recording occurrences, remote viewing, and capturing moments. Moreover, by studying the paranormal, one can remove stress and confusion from their mind. In this film, it was also shown that two paranormal experts assisted them in saving the family through paranormal investigations, which ultimately helped the Perron family overcome their paranormal difficulties.

**Part II:**

1. **This question, prompts you employ the concept of "depth" as a means of opening up *The Conjuring*. First, by what means--objective or subjective--are we as viewers granted access to the emotional/cognitive states of the film's characters? Second, how successful is the film's reliance on this means of generating psychological information about its characters? Does the audience feel anything at all for the Perron family?**

As a viewer, the film's characters really touched my heart, with all of them acting so realistically and supernaturally that I felt it was real. Bathsheba Sherman, the witch in the film, inhabited the house and influenced Carolyn Perron while she was in her body. Bathsheba killed her infants for reasons that are not revealed in the film, and then she entered the body of Carolyn Perron as a witch to kill the Perron family's five daughters which made the mother of the Perron family so helpless and she went to seek help from the paranormal specialists who were famed for their investigations and experiments. Carolyn Perron is assumed to be the main character in the film since she suffered all of the evil's tortures and it was so painful that she knew she was going to inadvertently kill her daughters, which made me cry. The psychological effects that occurred on Carolyn Perron, such as infestation, oppression, and possession, were discussed in Ed and Lorraine Warren's seminar. First, the dark scar on her body can be seen as an infestation. Second, her transformation into a witch led to oppression, and finally, the witch caused her psychological imbalance and forced her to kill her daughters, which are possessions. As an audience, it is heartbreaking to see a mother attempting to kill her infants, which indicates how helpless the Perron family was in that film.

**Part III:**

1. **Why is it that most paranormal films imply or clearly state that they are based on a ‘true’ story? How does this affect the audience? How does it affect some of our cultural assumptions of the paranormal? Does is it make the supernatural appear more “real”?**

Not everyone believes in paranormal incidents, and they tend to ignore them. By implying this tag, the audience is influenced to believe in paranormal occurrences, attracting their attention to watch the film. It also indicates someone's speech or stories from their lives, making the film or story more authentic. In case of, The Conjuring(2013) also used this tag on their trailer which made the audience more interested compared to other horror movies as this film contains true story. It makes the supernatural more realistic in the film since the scenes become so horrific that I began to imagine myself as one of the characters while watching it. As a result, the supernatural appears more real in this film.

**Part IV:**

1. **Does this film *The Conjuring* have value based only on plot development? Choose one of your favorite characters in this film and discuss how their development has made the film more enjoyable for the viewer.**

In my opinion, a film cannot be valued only on plot development; the characters in the film must also be valued in order for the film to be interesting. Though the plot development is essential to the film, the realistic acting of the characters cannot be avoided. Lorraine and Ed Warren, paranormal investigators, were helping the Perron family who were frightened of some terrible paranormal activities taking place at their farmhouse in a remote place of Rhode Island in this film. There were also more characters in this film, such as five daughters of the Perron family and two friends of Ed Warren, who acted in finding the evidence of the spirits and helping the investigators in making their plan work. Lorraine Warren, whose original name is Lili Taylor, is my favorite from all the characters. She played an important role in the film as a mother and a helper, and she was not only concerned about her daughter, but she also understood the situation of "Carolyn Perron," which is why she came to the house to help them. She can also read people's minds and see their memories, and she possesses some special powers that allow her to detect the presence of ghosts. She was seen as braver than any of the characters because, in the final steps, she used her special powers to place her hand on the head of Carolyn Perron and slowly her brains calmed down, causing the spirits to leave her body. Apart from that, on their first visit to the Perron House, she felt the presence of spirits and recognized what was going on in that farmhouse. She was more active than the other characters throughout the film, which made her more energetic and interesting.