

EN 1078 LE BEYOND FEAR: REPRESENTATIONS OF TERROR IN WESTERN CULTURE
(Fall 2020)

PREREQUISITE:

None

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

This course explores literary and artistic representations of terror, as a concept, phenomenon and theme, with a special emphasis on contemporary constructions of horror, fear, and shock.

RATIONALE:

This course will focus on terror as one of the most contested concepts of Western culture. Through engagement with texts on page and screen, the course will map out the many ways in which terror has been imagined and experienced, both on the individual and on the collective level.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon successful completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Demonstrate understanding of representations of terror within different cultural contexts;
2. Show how constructions of terror are related to aesthetic concerns in a variety of texts, from drama and fiction to poetry and film;
3. Relate how issues of identity are connected to cultural constructions of terror;
4. Explain how representations of terror reflect value systems at work in various cultural contexts.

METHOD OF TEACHING AND LEARNING:

In congruence with the teaching and learning strategy of the college, the following tools are used:

- Textual analysis, class discussions, workshop-style pair work and group work during class meetings;
- Active student-centered teaching approach in the presentation of course material to engage learners;
- Formative exercises designed to help students acquire confidence and benefit from independent study;
- Additional print and audiovisual educational material posted on the Blackboard course template;
- Timely instructor feedback on assignments;
- Other relevant educational material placed on reserve in the library;
- Individualized assistance during office hours for further discussion of lecture material, additional reading, assignments and examinations.

ASSESSMENT:

Portfolio of Essays (tests LO 1, 2, and 3) Two 500-word Essays	40%
Oral Presentation (tests LO 2)	10%
Final Examination (tests LO 4) 2 hours; in class; unseen.	40%
Participation Contribution to class discussion and preparedness to discuss material; participation in in-class activities.	10%

The final grade for this module will be determined by averaging all summative assessment grades, based on the predetermined weights for each assessment. Students are not required to resit failed assessments in this module. Failure to pass the module results in module repeat.

INDICATIVE READING:**REQUIRED READING:**

Varies according to thematic units chosen (no set textbook).

The Instructor will discuss at least four thematic units of the following seven. For each thematic unit the Instructor will cover at least two texts and one film.

The selected texts (literary or visual) may be examined in their entirety or through excerpts.

1. Terror and Anarchy

Euripides, *Bacchae* [play]

Percy Bysshe Shelley, *The Mask of Anarchy* [long poem]

C.P. Cavafy, "Darius" [poem]

David Fincher, *Fight Club* [film]

James McTeigue, *V for Vendetta* [film]

2. Terror of the Other, Terror of Isolation

Nadine Gordimer, "Is There Nowhere Else We Can Meet?" [short story]

Charlotte Perkins Gilman, "The Yellow Wallpaper" [short story]

Robert Eggers, *The Lighthouse* [film]

John Krasinski, *A Quiet Place* [film]

Ridley Scott, *Alien* [film]

3. Terror and the Uncanny

John Cheever, "The Swimmer" [short story]

Shirley Jackson, "The Lottery" [short story]

Nathaniel Hawthorne, "Young Goodman Brown" [short story]

E.T.A. Hoffmann, "The Sandman" [short story]

Charles Simic, "Miracle Glass Co.," "Mystery Writer" [poems]

David Robert Mitchell, *It Follows* [film]

4. The Terror of War

Siegfried Sassoon, "They," "The Rear-Guard," [poems]; From *Memoirs of an Infantry Officer* [short prose excerpt]

Isaac Rosenberg, "Break of Day in the Trenches," "Louse Hunting" [poems]

Wilfred Owen, "Anthem for Doomed Youth," "Dulce Et Decorum Est,"

"Strange Meeting," [poems]; From Owen's *Letters to His Mother* [short prose excerpt]

Steven Spielberg, *Saving Private Ryan* [film]

5. Terror of the Everyday

Colm Toibin, "A Priest," "A Summer Job" [short stories]

Annie Proulx, "The Half-Skinned Steer" [short story]

Joyce Carol Oates, "Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?" [short story]

Denis Johnson, "Dirty Wedding" [short story]

Raymond Carver, "Tell the Women We're Going" [short story]

Flannery O'Connor, "A Good Man Is Hard to Find" [short story]

Michael Haneke, *Funny Games* [film]

6. Terror and the Gothic

John Polidori, *The Vampyre* [novella]

Angela Carter, "The Lady of the House of Love" [short story]

Edgar Allan Poe, "Berenice" [short story]

William Faulkner, "A Rose for Emily" [short story]

Robert Eggers, *The Witch* [film]

7. Terror and Family

	<p>Sylvia Plath, "Metaphors," "Morning Song," "Nick and the Candlestick," "Daddy" [poems] Anne Sexton, "The Truth the Dead Know," "All My Pretty Ones" [poems] Don Paterson, "The Lie" [poem] Ari Aster, <i>Hereditary</i> [film] Jennifer Kent, <i>The Babadook</i> [film]</p> <p>RECOMMENDED READING: Varies according to thematic units chosen.</p>
<p>INDICATIVE MATERIAL: (e.g. audiovisual, digital material, etc.)</p>	<p>REQUIRED MATERIAL: Varies according to thematic units chosen.</p> <p>RECOMMENDED MATERIAL: Varies according to thematic units chosen.</p>
<p>COMMUNICATION REQUIREMENTS:</p>	<p>With the exception of the in-class examination, all written work must be word-processed on Word and adhere to MLA guidelines for manuscript format and documentation.</p>
<p>SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS:</p>	<p>Word, Blackboard</p>
<p>WWW RESOURCES:</p>	<p>Varies according to thematic units chosen (see under Indicative Content).</p>
<p>INDICATIVE CONTENT:</p>	<p>Discussions will be structured around thematically interrelated units, each unit dealing with a specific theme in relation to Terror. In each unit representative texts will engage students with a specific theme in relation to Terror.</p> <p>The Instructor will discuss at least four thematic units of the following seven:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Terror and Anarchy 2. Terror of the Other, Terror of Isolation 3. Terror and the Uncanny 4. The Terror of War 5. Terror of the Everyday 6. Terror and the Gothic 7. Terror and Family