

**WESTERN UNIVERSITY
FILM STUDIES, DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH STUDIES
FILM 2166A-650 SPECIAL TOPICS IN FILM GENRE, SUMMER 2018
THE ZOMBIE FILM**

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Please read the following information completely and carefully:

WELCOME to Special Topics in Film Genre: The Zombie Film!

This course was developed for Western's Owl and Distance Studies by Dr. Barbara Bruce and will be taught by Dr. Bruce this term. The course provides an introduction to the study of genre, a survey of zombie films, and analyses of films from a number of different

week, but in any given week, you cannot receive credit for more than 2 discussions and thus no more than 10 points (see the notes on grading, below).

out over the twelve lecture units. At the end of the course, I will post your total as a percentage.

For the most part, the Forum page is where you engage with your fellow students. I will interject, however, if a student has posted a problematic reading or an error, if I want to emphasize a particular point or issue that has been raised, or if a student seems to need or asks for some help to push his/her ideas further.

ASSIGNMENTS

To find the topics for the writing assignments, click on the “Assignments” folder on the course home page in Owl. You will also submit your written assignment through the same folder.

Close Analysis Assignments

The Close Analysis assignments are designed to develop the student’s ability to analyze the specific details of a film and to show the relationship between form and content—that is, between the cinematic technique used by the filmmaker(s) and the ideas or themes conveyed by the film.

For Close Analysis 1, you will be assigned a specific element, motif, or brief scene in a film from the course to analyze. For Close Analysis 2, you will be assigned a specific scene or sequence from a film from the course to analyze. For Close Analysis 3, you will choose a zombie film not included on the course from a list to be determined by the professor and then choose a motif, scene, or sequence from the film to analyze. The topics and choice of films for each reading will be posted well before the due dates.

This type of assignment differs from a conventional essay in that you do not have to develop a thesis in the way you would for a critical or theoretical essay. However, your analysis must still have a beginning, middle, and end and must present an argument. Begin with an introduction that includes a statement that focuses and summarizes the argument you will be presenting, an argument about the significance or meaning of the element, motif, sequence, or scene. The rest of the analysis should also be organized into paragraphs, each one focusing on a specific point and beginning with a topic sentence that highlights the main point of that paragraph. End your analysis with a succinct conclusion.

In your paper, you must analyze the *specific* details of the film. Vague and/or generalized discussions of the films, and especially mere plot summaries, will receive low grades. In developing your analysis, you should consider narrative details—

English language or if you have a learning, reading, or writing disability, please speak to me immediately and contact the Student Development Centre in UCC.

Topics

For each essay, topics will be posted in the Assignments folder. Students may *not* develop their own topics.

Formal features

The assignments must be written according to the standard **Modern Language Association (MLA)** essay style in typed, double-spaced, 12-point font with 1" margins. Note that in the MLA style, your name, the course number, your professor's name, and the date must appear double spaced in the upper-left corner of the first page. The title should appear centred, one double space below this information. Please consult *MLA Handbook* for the proper format. Please *do not* submit your assignments with title pages, which are not used in the MLA format.

Citations

All bibliographic notation must use the MLA method of parenthetical notation and include a Works Cited page. For more information, consult the *MLA Handbook*, 8th ed. (some information on the MLA method can be found in the [Purdue Online Writing Lab](#)).

Assignment Length

Ensure you are within the assigned word limit. If your analysis is short or long, expand or edit your work carefully until you are within 10% of the word limit. If an analysis is short of or exceeds the word limit by more than 10%, I will deduct marks at my discretion to a maximum of one full grade. In some cases, if an assignment exceeds the word limit by 50% or more, it will be returned unmarked to the student and late penalties will apply until an edited analysis is returned; if an analysis is short by 50% or more, it will receive a failing grade.

Due Dates

The assignments must be posted no later than 11:59 p.m. Friday of the week each is due. Assignments handed in late without prior permission will be returned with a grade only, no comments, and 3% per day late, including weekends (i.e., 6% for Saturday and Sunday), deducted from the grade assigned to your paper. Papers submitted after the assignment has been returned to the rest of the class will not normally be accepted unless accommodation has been granted by an academic counsellor.

The due date for Close Reading 3 is July 20—one week before the end of classes. This means that I have very little time to mark and return the assignment. For this last assignment, then, I will only read it and assign it a mark. If you want full comments on this assignment, you must submit it one week earlier: by 11:59 p.m. on Friday, July 13.

Submitting Your Assignments

To submit an assignment, in Owl click on "Assignments" in the menu on the Home Page and then on the appropriate assignment folder. Assignments are submitted to and marked in Turnitin. Follow the instructions to upload your assignment, and make sure you receive confirmation that your submission has been uploaded. I recommend you print or screen capture your confirmation.

Paper copies or assignments emailed without permission will not be accepted, and late penalties will apply until the assignment is submitted in Owl. In case of a lost assignment, the student is always responsible; in other words, if a student claims an assignment has been lost, a replacement must be provided that same day, and late penalties will apply. See “Keep a Copy!”, below.

Planning Your Term

I recommend strongly that you *map out all your due dates and exam dates* at the beginning of the term and plan your research, writing, and study times accordingly. Saying that you have a busy week is not an acceptable reason for an extension, since you always have advanced notice of deadlines.

Extensions

All requests for extensions must be made through Academic Counselling in your home faculty. The student must ask for it well in advance of the due date (preferably at least a week in advance) and have a good reason for the extension backed by documentation. Extensions do not apply to tests and exams.

If you miss an exam or an assignment due date, or if you require an extension at the last minute on medical or compassionate grounds, you must notify your professor *and* your academic counsellor *immediately*. Proper documentation (a doctor's note, for example) will be required and must be given to the academic counsellor (never to your professor) as soon as possible.

In all cases, if the academic counsellor believes the student has a valid need for an extension, the academic counsellor will then contact your professor. Only once the professor has been contacted by your academic counsellor will s/he grant the extension or schedule a make-up exam.

Keep a copy!

Always keep a paper copy of each of your papers and save electronic copies of each file on your computer *and* on an external hard drive, a USB key, or a cloud. Retain all assignments at least until you receive your official final grade for the course from the Registrar's Office. If you plan to go on to grad school, keep everything!

Grading

All papers are rigorously marked according to the Grading Rubric, which gives the criteria for each grade level and which is posted in Owl, under Course Content/Additional Assignment Information.

Returning Assignments: I will do my very best to return assignments within three weeks of the due date. If you wish to discuss the comments or grade you have received with me, ***you must wait for at least three days after the assignment has been returned to you***—no exceptions.

If you believe an assignment has been unfairly graded for whatever reason and you to launch an appeal, you must follow the procedures prescribed by the university. See the

“Undergraduate Student Academic Appeals

commercial plagiarism-detection software under license to the University for the detection of

American Horror Film.” (book chapters)

Unit 6 ±June 11-15 ±The Game-Changer, Part II

Required Film: *Dawn of the Dead* (Romero, USA, 1978, 126m, c)

Required Reading: Kyle William Bishop, “The Idle Proletariat: *Dawn of the Dead*, Consumer Ideology, and the Loss of Productive Labour” (journal article)

Unit 7 ±June 18-22 ±The Italian Zombie Film

Required Film: *Zombi 2* (Fulci, Italy, 1979, 91m, c)

Unit 8 ±June 25-29 ±The Teen Zombie Film

Required Film: *Night of the Comet* (Eberhardt, USA, 1984, 95m, c, 1.85:1)

Close Reading 2 due Friday, June 29 by 11:59 p.m.

Unit 9 ±July 3-6 ±The Angry Zombie

Monday, July 2: Happy Canada Day +1!

Required Film: *28 Days Later . . .* (Boyle, UK, 2002, 113m, c)

Required Reading: C. Christopher Williams, “Birthing an Undead Family: Reification of the Mother’s Role in the Gothic Landscape of *28 Days Later*” (journal article)

Unit 10 ±July 9-13 ±The Corporate Zombie

Required Film: *Resident Evil* (Anderson, UK/Germany/France, 2002, 100m, c)

Required Reading: Stephen Harper, “‘I Could Kiss You, You Bitch’: Race, Gender and Sexuality in *Resident Evil* and *Resident Evil 2: Apocalypse*” (journal article)

Unit 11 ±July 16-20 ±The Rom-Zom-Com

Required Film: *Shaun of the Dead* (Wright, UK/France/USA, 2004, 99m, c)

Close Reading 3 due Friday, July 20 by 11:59 p.m.

Note! assignments hande2 11.52 T9q0.0000091A t3 id3 Lat3aatnJulydarmm,ment