

SUPERNATURAL HORROR

ENGL 1102 HP1 / Fall 2009 / MWF 11:05-11:55pm / Skiles 308

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Description

The Goal of English 1102 at Georgia Tech is to improve students' communication and research skills. In this course students explore a variety of literary, theoretical, film, and cultural "texts," and they engage in sustained research to understand the relationship between culture and cultural production. Students learn how to read critically and write effectively as they develop a deeper understanding of the social contexts that inform communication. To enhance their understanding of a variety of communication modes, students learn how to expand and support their written work with oral presentations, and they explore visual as well as textual arguments. Working independently and collaboratively, students improve their composition skills while gaining a deeper understanding of audience, fundamental research practices, and the contexts that inform effective communication.

This section of English 1102 will focus on literature, film, and works of art that deal with the boundary between the natural and the supernatural. This boundary, largely the product of the scientific revolution, undergoes a number of changes in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Often, it is nearly impossible to discern whether an event is of supernatural origin, or whether a natural explanation exists - in many instances they become one in the same. The American writer H.P. Lovecraft referred to this tradition as "supernatural horror," and contemporary scholars such as Tzvetan Todorov referred to this boundary between the natural and the supernatural as "the fantastic." We will read stories in the American, British, and Japanese traditions, while also looking at film, art, and other media such as comics and games.

Required Texts

All books may be purchased at the GaTech bookstore or through Amazon.

- Ito, Junji. *Uzumaki, vol. 1* (Viz Media, 2007).
- Joshi, S.T. (ed.). *American Supernatural Tales* (Penguin, 2007).
- Kyoka, Izumi. *Japanese Gothic Tales* (University of Hawaii Press, 1996).
- Lovecraft, H.P. *The Annotated Supernatural Horror in Literature* (Hippocampus, 2000).
- Poe, Edgar Allen. *The Portable Edgar Allen Poe* (Penguin, 2006).
- Rampo, Edogawa. *Japanese Tales of Mystery and Imagination* (Tuttle, 1989).
- Todorov, Tzvetan. *The Fantastic* (Cornell University Press, 1975).

In addition you should also purchase the standard ENGL textbook, *Everything's An Argument, 4th ed.* (Bedford/St. Martin's, 2006).

Course Requirements

- Final Paper (approx. 10 pages) = 40%
- T-Square assignments = 30%
- Participation = 30%

NOTE: *This is an advanced, honors course, and will require your commitment as a student.* Preparation is absolutely essential for this class. Students are expected to complete the assigned readings, and to come to class with questions, comments, and ideas. You will also be asked to develop an independent research project that will culminate in a paper at the end of the term. Further details follow on the next page...

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Below are further details about the class and your grade:

Grades: I will calculate all letter grades according to the following scale:

A = 90-100; B = 80-89; C = 70-79; D = 60-69; F = 1-59

All grades for the course as a whole are final and are not subject to change. *Please note that failure to complete a major course assignment (such as an exam or the final paper) may result in the failure of the course as a whole.*

Final paper: The final paper will be a scholarly, research paper of approximately 10 pages in length. It will involve external research and will incorporate external sources. The final paper will be based on a topic of your choosing that is related to the class and readings. All paper topics must be approved by me. It is a requirement that you discuss your final paper topic with me in advance. I will give you a handout describing the details of the final paper later in the semester.

T-square: Each week you will be required to post responses of at least 400 words on T-square [t-square.gatech.edu]. Questions will be posted on Fridays, and you are expected to respond by class time the following Monday. Additionally, all course materials (syllabus, handouts, announcements) will also be available here. About halfway through the semester I will give you a grade estimate on the quality of your T-square posts.

Participation: The participation component of the course includes things such as in-class discussion and group activities. Strong in-class participation involves the following:

- Coming to class on time, having completed the readings.
- Bringing the day's readings and/or books to class with you.
- Both speaking *and* listening in class.
- Working as part of the whole class as well as in smaller groups.

By contrast, there are a number of things which will work against you in terms of participation:

- Failure to complete the readings and/or assignments.
- Being disrespectful towards others in the class when they are talking.
- Class disruptions (e.g. tardiness, chit-chat with your neighbor during class time, playing with your phone or browsing the Internet, sleeping during class).
- Also, mobile phones, iPods, and all other gadgets are to be turned OFF and put away while in class.
- No food is allowed in class.

Any serious case of disruptive behavior will be taken up with the relevant GT offices as stipulated in the Student Honor Code.

Honor Code: All students are expected to adhere to the Georgia Tech Honor Code [www.honor.gatech.edu], which defines academic misconduct as:

- Possessing, using, or exchanging improperly acquired written or verbal information in the preparation of any essay, exam, or other assignment included in an academic course;
- Unauthorized collaboration with a student in the commission of academic requirements;
- False claims of performance or work that has been submitted by the claimant;
- Alteration or insertion of any academic grade or rating so as to obtain unearned academic credit;
- Deliberate falsification of a written or verbal statement of fact to a member of the faculty to obtain unearned academic credit;
- Forgery, alteration, or misuse of any institute document relating to the academic status of a student.

The writing you do for any assignment should be your own. If I have reason to suspect that you are plagiarizing, I will take the appropriate actions with the office of the Dean of Students.

Students with disabilities should contact Access Disabled Assistance Program for Tech Students (ADAPTS) to discuss accommodations: (404) 894-2564 (voice) / (404) 894-1664 (voice/TDD) or www.adapts.gatech.edu.

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Week 1

M	8/17	Course Introduction...	
W	8/19	Course Introduction...	
F	8/21	Screening: <i>Twilight Zone</i> episode	T-square

Week 2

M	8/24	Todorov, <i>The Fantastic</i> Freud, "The Uncanny"	
W	8/26	Todorov, <i>The Fantastic</i> Varnado, "The Idea of the Numinous in Gothic Literature"	
F	8/28	Todorov, <i>The Fantastic</i> Lovecraft, <i>Supernatural Horror in Literature</i>	T-square

Week 3

M	8/31	Poe, from <i>The Portable Edgar Allen Poe</i>	
W	9/2	Poe, from <i>The Portable Edgar Allen Poe</i>	
F	9/4	Screening: <i>The Black Imp</i> (dir. Méliès, 1908)	T-square

Week 4

M	9/7	NO CLASS	
W	9/9	Poe, from <i>The Portable Edgar Allen Poe</i>	
F	9/11	Poe, from <i>The Portable Edgar Allen Poe</i>	T-square

Week 5

M	9/14	Screening: <i>The Village</i> (dir. Shyamalan, 2004)	
W	9/16	Discussion con't...	
F	9/18	Discussion con't...	T-square

Week 6

M	9/21	Izumi, from <i>Japanese Gothic Tales</i> Todorov, <i>The Fantastic</i>	
W	9/23	Izumi, from <i>Japanese Gothic Tales</i>	
F	9/25	--	T-square

Week 7

M	9/28	Selections from <i>American Supernatural Tales</i> Todorov, <i>The Fantastic</i>	
W	9/30	Selections from <i>American Supernatural Tales</i>	
F	10/2	Selections from <i>American Supernatural Tales</i>	T-square

Week 8

M	10/5	NO CLASS	
W	10/7	Selections from <i>American Supernatural Tales</i>	
F	10/9	Selections from <i>American Supernatural Tales</i>	T-square

Week 9

M	10/12	Stories by H.P. Lovecraft, Clark Ashton Smith, Frank Belknap Long, & others Todorov, <i>The Fantastic</i>	
W	10/14	Stories by H.P. Lovecraft, Clark Ashton Smith, Frank Belknap Long, & others	
F	10/16	Screening: <i>Outer Space</i> (dir. Tscherkassky,)	T-square

Week 10

M	10/19	Rampo, <i>Japanese Tales of Mystery and Imagination</i>	
W	10/21	Rampo, <i>Japanese Tales of Mystery and Imagination</i>	
F	10/23	Rampo, <i>Japanese Tales of Mystery and Imagination</i>	T-square

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Week 11			
M	10/26	Screening: <i>A Tale of Two Sisters</i> (dir. Kim, 2003)	
W	10/28	Discussion con't...	
F	10/30	Discussion con't...	PAPER TOPICS DUE
Week 12			
M	11/2	Ito, <i>Uzumaki</i>	
W	11/4	Ito, <i>Uzumaki</i>	
F	11/6	Ito, <i>Uzumaki</i>	T-square
Week 13			
M	11/9	Selections from <i>American Supernatural Tales</i> Todorov, <i>The Fantastic</i>	
W	11/11	Selections from <i>American Supernatural Tales</i>	
F	11/13	--	T-square
Week 14			
M	11/16	Screening: <i>Kwaidan</i> (dir. Kobayashi, 1964) Hearn, from <i>Kwaidan: Stories & Studies of Strange Things</i>	
W	11/18	Discussion con't...	
F	11/20	Discussion con't...	T-square
Week 15			
M	11/23	<i>Call of Cthulhu Eternal Darkness</i> , and other weird games...	
W	11/25	Discussion con't...	
F	11/27	NO CLASS	T-square
Week 16			
M	11/30	Writing workshop	
W	12/2	Writing workshop	
F	12/4	--	FINAL PAPERS DUE