

**IDS 2935****“The Horror, The Horror”: Representations of War and Political Violence****UF Quest 1—War & Peace****General Education—Humanities, International**

Note: A minimum grade of C is required for General Education credit.

Summer B 2022

Monday, Wednesday and Friday (asynchronous) Credit Hours: 3

Time: Period Three (11am-12:15pm)

Place: TUR L007

Course Fee: \$0

**Course Web Site:** <http://elearning.ufl.edu/>

**Dr. Eric Kligerman, Associate Professor of German Studies**

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Zoom Office Hours: Thursday, 9-11am or by appointment

Zoom Link to Office hours: <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/92487785339>

The best way to reach Dr. Kligerman is through email. You do not need an appointment for Zoom office hours, but without an appointment, you may have to wait your turn.

**Teaching Assistant: Jeffrey Jones**

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**Course Description**

This course sets out to probe the cultural, social and political functions of horror in relation to shifting moments of historical violence. In addition to exploring the horror genre in literary and cinematic works of the imagination, we will ultimately apply the aesthetic, epistemic and ethical questions arising in the genre to shifting representations of traumatic history. As we map out the history and themes behind this popular genre, our aim is to probe the intersections between horror and its socio-cultural and historical contexts. How is political violence represented, conceptualized and memorialized across shifting linguistic and visual texts? How do individuals and communities cope with the aftermath of catastrophic loss? What ethical questions arise in our engagement with representations of traumatic limit events and the experience of horror these events entail?

After reading and screening central works from the horror genre, we will examine some of the emblematic scenes of historical violence in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. Turning to such instances as the legacies of colonialism, the Holocaust, the Vietnam War and the events surrounding September 11, 2001, this Quest course investigates the intersection between narratives of horror in the realms of both fantasy and history. In our inquiry into representations of horror, we will examine how this genre in European and American culture is employed to express both individual and national anxieties in the face of political violence.

Theoretical readings will embrace a range of disciplines, from literary and film theory to philosophical and psychoanalytic investigations of the all-too-common attraction to the art of fear. Through the exploration of such concepts as the sublime, the uncanny and the abject, we will probe our fascination with these categories. What is horror and how do authors and artists represent it? What cultural function does horror serve? Similar to Aristotle's line of questioning in his *Poetics*, why are we drawn to horror? What does the audience desire when confronted with representations of history as a site of horror? Finally, what does our fascination with the horrors of historical violence reveal about ourselves?

### **Course Policies:**

Attendance and due dates. Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policy that can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx> . Please look at your calendar at the beginning of the semester to see if you have any commitments (for example, religious holidays) that conflict with classes, due dates, or exams. If you do have a conflict, contact Dr. Kligerman in advance.

Email. The instructors will contact you through the eLearning system or by emailing your UF address. Please check your account.

Classroom demeanor. No talking on cell phones, ringing or beeping, texting, social media browsing/posting, emailing, noisy or smelly eating, etc., during class, except as part of appropriate game play during game sessions. Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. Inappropriate behavior shall result, minimally, in a request to leave class.

Accommodation. Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

Course evaluations. Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at [gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/students/](https://gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/students/). Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via [ufl.bluer.com/ufl/](https://ufl.bluer.com/ufl/). Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at [gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/public-results/](https://gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/public-results/) .

Diversity. It is my intent that we explore the content of this course in a way that is respectful of diversity— gender identity, sexuality, disability, age, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, race, nationality, religion, and culture. It is also my intent to present content that explores diverse points of view, which might be challenging. Maintaining a respectful environment will be both my responsibility and yours. It is my intent that students from all backgrounds and perspectives be well-served by this course and that the diversity that students bring to this class be viewed as a resource, strength, and benefit. Your suggestions are encouraged and appreciated.

### **Academic Honesty:**

The university's honesty policy regarding cheating, plagiarism, etc. Suggested wording: UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Honor Code ([sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/student-conduct-code/](https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/student-conduct-code/)) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

See the following web page for UF policies for assigning grade points:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>.

### **Required Texts to Purchase**

Susan Sontag, *Regarding the Pain of Others*

Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*

Primo Levi, *Survival in Auschwitz*

Michael Herr, *Dispatches*

All shorter readings and images of paintings and photographs we will discuss will be made available on the course Canvas web site. We will also screen during the semester several films, which will be available online.

### **Anticipated Schedule**

This schedule is tentative and subject to change.

### **Part 1: Conceptualizing Horror via Trauma**

This introductory section sets up some of the methodological frames to help us analyze our engagement with representations of horror and the experience of fear that accompanies these encounters. We will probe the epistemic, aesthetic and ethical frames of looking at scenes of horror.

6/27

"Recapturing the Past" by Cathy Caruth (From *Trauma: Explorations in Memory*, 1995)

Sontag's *Regarding the Pain of Others*: pp. 3—60.

6/29

Sontag's *Regarding the Pain of Others*: pp. 60-126.

Here is a link to Sontag's book if you have yet to buy the copy:

[https://monoskop.org/images/a/a6/Sontag\\_Susan\\_2003\\_Regarding\\_the\\_Pain\\_of\\_Others.pdf](https://monoskop.org/images/a/a6/Sontag_Susan_2003_Regarding_the_Pain_of_Others.pdf)

Supplementary Reading:

"Recapturing the Past" by Cathy Caruth (From *Trauma: Explorations in Memory*, 1995)

7/1

Listen to Sontag interview:

<https://www.wnyc.org/story/revisiting-susan-sontag-on-the-pain-of-others/>

## **Part 2: The Monster: *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari***

How has the figure of the monster evolved in contemporary horror? What is meant by the "paradox of horror"? How are some bodies constituted as the normative ideals of humanity, while others are excluded as aberrations?

7/4

Holiday

7/6

Robert Wiene, *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari* (1921): Screen at home

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IP0KB2XC29o>

Read:

excerpts from Siegfried Kracauer's *From Caligari to Hitler*

Noel Carroll, "The Nature of Horror" (1987): <http://www.dif.unige.it/epilog/Carroll-horror.pdf>

7/8 (Friday)

Watch video on Carroll's discussion of horror.

Review PowerPoint on Expressionist art.

## **Part 3: Colonial Horror: Annihilating the Other**

How do writers explore the dialectic of enlightenment (the interplay between reason and barbarism) in relation to Europe and its "others"?

7/11

Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness* (1899): pp. 3-51.

7/13

*Heart of Darkness*: pp. 52-132.

Supplementary Reading:

Chinua Achebe, selections from "An Image of Africa: Racism in Conrad's 'Heart of Darkness'": pp. 251-261.

#### **Part 4: Staring at the Medusa: Representations of The Holocaust**

How do poets, filmmakers and philosophers probe the limit event that shatters traditional forms of perception and comprehension?

7/15 (Friday)

*Watch my Zoom lecture on the Holocaust, before watching Nazi Concentration Camps documentary.*

Screen on your own George Stevens, *Nazi Concentration Camps* (1945):

<https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x21dfgb>

Supplementary Reading:

Zygmunt Bauman, "The Uniqueness and Normality of the Holocaust."

Lawrence Douglas, "Film as Witness: Screening *Nazi Concentration Camps* before the Nuremberg Tribunal."

7/18

*Nazi Concentration Camps* (1945)

Bauman, "The Uniqueness and Normality of the Holocaust."

Douglas, "Film as Witness: Screening *Nazi Concentration Camps* before the Nuremberg Tribunal."

7/20

Primo Levi, *Survival in Auschwitz*: pp. 9-100.

7/22 (Friday)

Watch Kligerman's video lecture on *Survival in Auschwitz*.

7/25

*Survival in Auschwitz*: pp. 101-174

Suggested reading:

Giorgio Agamben, Selections from *Remnants of Auschwitz* (pp. 41-60)

#### **Part 5: Holocaust Memorials/Memorializing Lynchings**

This section exams the construction of memorials in spaces of historical violence, both in Germany and the American South.

7/27 James Young, "*The Countermonument: Memory against itself in Germany*"

Visit online the Legacy Museum and National Memorial in Birmingham, Alabama.

Here is a link to the museum/memorial website:

Museum: <https://museumandmemorial.eji.org/museum>

Memorial: <https://museumandmemorial.eji.org/memorial>

7/29 (Friday)

ONLINE ZOOM LECTURE ON HOLOCAUST MEMORIALS

Watch: "Tulsa: The Fire and the Forgotten"

<https://www.pbs.org/wnet/tulsa-the-fire-and-the-forgotten/video/episode-1-zew2v8/>

Excursions to the Newberry Memorial to the Lynchings of 1916, to the site of the

Rosewood Massacre (1923) by Cedar Key, and/or lynching memorial in downtown Gainesville (near Main Street outside the Alachua County Administration Building).

### **Part 6: Revisiting Conrad's *Heart of Darkness* in Michael Herr's *Dispatches***

Our analysis of the Vietnam War will center on the relation between spectatorship, visual pleasure, mass media and popular culture.

8/1 Michael Herr, *Dispatches* (1977): pp. 1-69.

Screening outside of class of Albert and Robert Maysles' *Gimme Shelter* (1970):

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ax\\_q6vp5FqU&t=50s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ax_q6vp5FqU&t=50s)

Supplementary Reading:

Amy Taubin, "Gimme Shelter: Rock-and-Roll Zapruder" (film review). Link to essay:

<https://www.criterion.com/current/posts/103-gimme-shelter-rock-and-roll-zapruder>

### **Part 7: September 11, 2001**

Our course concludes with the traumatic shocks surrounding the terrorist attacks on 9/11. How are the catastrophic events from that day recollected through works of art?

8/3

Tom Junod, "The Falling Man" Esquire: <https://www.esquire.com/news-politics/a48031/the-falling-man-tom-junod/>

Don DeLillo, "Ruins of the Future" (2001): pp. 1-11.

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2001/dec/22/fiction.dondelillo>

Wisława Szymborska's poem "Photograph from September 11" ("Fotografia z 11 Wrzesnia")

Watch recording of 9/11 Interview

8/5

(Friday): Take-home Final Exam is due by 1pm on 8/6 (Saturday)

### **General Education Objectives and Learning Outcomes**

This course is a Humanities (H) subject area course in the UF General Education Program. Humanities courses provide instruction in the history, key themes, principles, terminology, and theory or methodologies used within a humanities discipline or the humanities in general. Students will learn to identify and to analyze the key elements, biases and influences that shape thought. These courses emphasize clear and effective analysis and approach issues and problems from multiple perspectives.

#### **Humanities Student Learning Outcomes**

At the conclusion of the course, students will be able to...

- Identify, describe, and explain the history, underlying theory and methodologies used in the course (Content).

- Identify and analyze key elements, biases and influences that shape thought within the subject area. Approach issues and problems within the discipline from multiple perspectives (Critical Thinking).
- Communicate knowledge, thoughts and reasoning clearly and effectively (Communication).
- Through close reading, discussion and critical analysis of the course material, students will be introduced to some of the central literary, theoretical and philosophical concepts that anchor the Humanities. We will trace the trajectory and development of such literary genres as Modernism (*Heart of Darkness*) and Post-Modernism (*Dispatches*). Similarly, students will also be able to discuss the philosophical concepts behind these shifting aesthetic forms in relation to some of the pillars of intellectual thought, including Kant's theory of the sublime, Freud's concept of trauma, Adorno's critique of the Enlightenment and Arendt idea of "the banality of evil."

This course also meets the International (N) of the UF General Education Program. International courses promote the development of students' global and intercultural awareness. Students examine the cultural, economic, geographic, historical, political, and/or social experiences and processes that characterize the contemporary world, and thereby comprehend the trends, challenges, and opportunities that affect communities around the world. Students analyze and reflect on the ways in which cultural, economic, political, and/or social systems and beliefs mediate their own and other people's understanding of an increasingly connected world.

#### International Student Learning Outcomes

At the conclusion of the course, students will be able to...

- Identify, describe, and explain the historical, cultural, economic, political, and/or social experiences and processes that characterize the contemporary world.
- Analyze and reflect on the ways in which cultural, economic, political, and/or social systems and beliefs mediate understandings of an increasingly connected contemporary world.
- The international component to the course is directly tied to the content of the course material. For instance, the European colonial project in Africa will be explored via Conrad's *Heart of Darkness* and Chinua Achebe's critical study of Conrad. The Italian, German, and Israeli responses to the legacy of the Holocaust will be approached through shifting works of literature, film and philosophical studies on the genocide of European Jewry. Students will probe the legacy of America's war in Vietnam through Michael Herr's journalistic account of his experiences as a war correspondent.

#### **UF Quest 1 Program Objectives and Learning Outcomes**

This course is a UF Quest 1 subject area course in the UF Quest Program. Grounded in the modes of inquiry and expression characteristic of the arts and humanities, Quest 1 courses invite students to explore essential questions that transcend the boundaries of any one discipline—the kinds of complex and open-ended questions they will face as critical, creative, and thoughtful adults navigating a complex and interconnected world.

#### **UF Quest 1 courses...**

- Address in relevant ways the history, key themes, principles, terminologies, theories, and methodologies of various arts and humanities disciplines that enable us to ask essential questions about the human condition.
- Present different arts and humanities disciplines' distinctive elements, along with their biases and influences on essential questions about the human condition.
- Require students to explore at least one arts or humanities resource outside their classroom and explain how engagement with it complements classroom work.
- Enable students to analyze and evaluate essential questions about the human condition clearly and effectively in writing and other forms appropriate to the discipline.
- Embed critical analysis of the role arts and humanities play in the lives of individuals and societies and the role they might play in students' undergraduate degree programs.

### **UF Quest 1 Student Learning Outcomes**

At the conclusion of the course, students will be able to...

Identify, describe, and explain the history, theories, and methodologies used to examine essential questions about the human condition within and across the arts and humanities disciplines incorporated into the course (**Content**).

Analyze and evaluate essential questions about the human condition using established practices appropriate for the arts and humanities disciplines incorporated into the course (**Critical Thinking**).

Connect course content with critical reflection on their intellectual, personal, and professional development at UF and beyond (**Connection**).

Develop and present clear and effective responses to essential questions in oral and written forms as appropriate to the relevant humanities disciplines incorporated into the course (**Communication**).

### **Student Learning Outcomes and Assessment**

Reflecting the curricular structures of Quest 1 and these Gen Ed designations, at the end of *"The Horror, The Horror": Representations of War and Historical Violence* students will be able to:

1. Identify, describe and explain the transformation and adaptation of the horror genre into representations of historical violence across distinct cultures, works of art and socio-political contexts. Special attention will be paid to the way categories such as (but not limited to) race, religion and ethnicity intersect with the topic of the destruction of the other in scenes of historical violence (Content SLOs for Gen Ed Hum, International and Q1).



2. Analyze and evaluate through shifting methodological approaches how the ethical, epistemic and aesthetic ramifications behind these representations of historical violence by using established practices appropriate to the arts and humanities (Critical Thinking SLOs for Gen Ed Hum, International and Q1).

- Assessed through class participation, weekly responses on Canvas, take-home midterm and final essay exams, final paper and interview project.

3. Develop and present clear and effective responses to essential questions about the spectator's critical engagement with literary and visual representations of historical violence in 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century American and European societies in oral and written forms appropriate to the relevant humanities disciplines incorporated into the course (Communication SLO for Gen Ed Hum, International and Q1).

- Assessed through class participation, weekly responses on Canvas, midterm and final take-home exams, final paper, and interview project.

4. Analyze, evaluate and critically reflect on connections between course content and their intellectual, personal, and professional development at UD and beyond (Connection SLO for Q1).

- Assessed through class participation, Canvas responses, and 9/11 interview project.

### **Breakdown of assignments and grading**

#### **1) Attendance**

As one of the fundamental aims of this course is to familiarize you with the core humanities practices of close reading and deep listening, your engaged presence in class is indispensable for our work. Students will be permitted to miss no more than 5 hours of classroom time. Each additional absence will result in a lowering of the attendance grade by 20 points. If the attendance grade drops to a zero, you will be considered not to have completed the requirements of the course, and hence will not receive a passing grade. Late arrivals and/or early departures from class meetings will be counted as absences.

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

#### **2) Participation**

You will discover that there are great benefits to your active engagement in our discussions in class. I will be more than happy to meet with you individually to discuss strategies to enrich your participation in all of your future UF classes. However, participation is by no means simply a quantitative assessment of the number of times we hear your voice.

Rather, participation encompasses the qualities of all your activities for the course. This includes the preparation demonstrated in both your oral and written work for each class meeting; bringing the materials to be discussed in class to each and every meeting; the seriousness and respect for the readings, the professor and your fellow students demonstrated in any contributions you make to the course; the timeliness of your turning in your assignments; and so forth.

TAs will evaluate student contributions to class discussions, starting in the first week of the semester. During the 12 class discussions throughout the semester, students who attend discussion can receive 1 to 8 points based on the above criteria: 8=outstanding, 7=excellent, 6=very good, 5=good, 4-3= satisfactory, 2-1= unsatisfactory. If you are absent for class, your participation grade will be 0.

### 3) Course Reading and Identification: Discussion Board Posts

Readings should be completed before the class meeting in which they are to be discussed. This means that from our first meeting onward, you should be reading continuously, with the aim of getting ahead of our discussions. You are also required to bring copies of the readings to class. This course will ask you to do a good deal of reading, some of which you may find challenging in that they may lead to questions about deeply ingrained and unexamined assumptions and expectations.

At the same time, you should try as much as possible to inhabit the intellectual and cultural contexts of the work's author. Ask yourself these questions of the readings: What are the writer's goals? What things does she or he challenge or call into question? What are the writer's own expectations and assumptions? How does she or he work to achieve both their stated and implicit goals? And most importantly, in what ways does this work enable you to think in new ways?

A) To help you prepare for the weekly discussion section meetings with TAs and the lectures, you will contribute Discussion Board Posts (DBP) on Canvas throughout the semester. These assignments on Canvas will consist of specific questions pertaining to our weekly readings. The class is divided into discussion groups for you to post your responses to these questions. Here is an example: *Hannah Arendt rejects the depiction of Adolph Eichmann as a monster and describes instead how he embodies the "banality of evil." What does Arendt mean by this term in relation to Eichmann's role in the Holocaust?* **You will be asked to do the DBP assignment for SIX sections, beginning with the second week of the semester.**

B) After you respond to the discussion post, Ask **Your Own Question** that you have about the reading. To receive full credit, your question will need to be constructive, thoughtful, and pertain to readings in that module. A question that is too vague will not receive credit (e.g., "What is the point of *Eichmann in Jerusalem*?" This question is too general to be helpful). Avoid questions that do not relate directly to the module or cannot be answered by referring to the readings in that module.

C) Read all the initial posts of the students in your group and post **one reply** to posts in your group before the discussion closes. Begin each reply by stating what you are responding to. Your reply may be to anything in the post that will contribute to the discussion and help your group engage in a thoughtful and meaningful dialogue about the module's readings. Don't just say that the other student has a good answer. Add an additional point that either supports the other student's point or raises additional questions.

### 4) Writing assignments

A) and B) There will be BOTH a **take-home midterm** and a **take-home final exam** comprised of close readings of passages discussed in class. You will be asked to explain both the significance of the passage and how it relates to the larger themes and issues of the course. The midterm and final exams will involve short and long written responses to themes and issues we discuss during the semester.

C) Students will be asked to write 1 analytic essay (between 800-1,000 words) from a selection of essay questions pertaining to the texts covered in class. Your written work will be graded on the rigor, originality and your thoughtful engagement with the questions from the text.

Essays will be holistically graded according to evidence of students' reading and critical analysis of course material, their ability to answer the essay prompt, the thoroughness and sophistication of the response, and the language and stylistics used.

### 5) Encounters beyond the classroom

A) 9/11 Interview project. Every student will be required to conduct an interview of an adult at least 30 years old, who remembers the events of September 11th, and is willing to share their experience with you. After conducting your interview, reflect not only on the responses you received to your questions but also the story told by the interviewee. How did hearing the person's story change your perspective about the events of September 11th? Further details on the assignment and its specifications will be discussed in class and/or provided on Canvas.

B) Students will also be required to visit memorials and monuments in the area that commemorate historical events of violence, such as the Newberry Memorial to the Lynchings of 1916, the site of the Rosewood Massacre (1923) by Cedar Key or local war memorials. Afterwards, students will write a one-page response about their experience with the memorial. If students are unable to visit these sites in person, you can visit a virtual memorial site on line. Further details on the assignment and its specifications will be discussed in class and/or provided on Canvas.

### Grading percentages

1) Attendance (see Course Policies 1) = 12 lectures and 12 discussions (5 each)= 120 points

2) a) Participation (see Course Policies 2) = 96 points

b) Introductory discussion post = 4 points

3) Discussion board posts on Canvas (Course Policy 3A) 6 posts x 25 points= 150 points

4) Mid-term close reading exam (see Course Policies 4A) = 140 points

5) final exam with long essay question (see Course Policies 4B) = 150 points

6) Short response paper (see Course Policies 4C) = 140 points

7) 9/11 Interview (see above Course Policies 5A) = 100 points

8) Visit to memorial one-page response (see above Course Policies 5B)= 100 points

**TOTAL: 1000 possible points**

### **Assignment Due Dates**

7/17— Take-home midterm

7/26- Short-essay assignment covering Joseph Conrad, Primo Levi and George Stevens

7/31- Lynching Memorial Assignment

8/4—9/11 short-interview assignment

8/6—Take-home final exam

### **Grading Scale and Value**

See the following web page for UF policies for assigning grade points:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>.

.930-1,000 = A	A = 4.0
.900-929 = A-	A- = 3.67
.870-899 = B+	B+ = 3.33
.830-869 = B	B = 3.00
.790-829 = B-	B- = 2.67
750-789 = C+	C+ = 2.33
.720-749 = C	C = 2.00
.690-719 = C-	C- = 1.67
.660-689 = D+	D+ = 1.33
620-659 = D	D = 1.00
600-619 = D-	D- = 0.67
0-599 = E	E = 0.00