

Course Title: *Horror in Literature*

Instructor: Scott A. Johnson

Office Hours: MWF, 12-1pm or by appointment, office number 311

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Course Overview

Through the course of this semester, we will investigate horror in its many forms throughout literary history. From the classical horror of Poe and Lovecraft to more modern masters such as Matheson and King, students will explore horror in its many forms, all the while determining its value and importance in literature.

Required Reading

The Best of Edgar Allen Poe (Edgar Allen Poe)

ISBN: 1580493874

- *The Fall of the House of Usher*
- *The Tell-Tale Heart*
- *The Black Cat*
- *The Masque of the Red Death*

The Best of H.P. Lovecraft: Bloodcurdling Tales of Horror and the Macabre (H.P. Lovecraft)

ISBN: 0345350804

- *The Rats in the Walls*
- *Pickman's Model*
- *The Call of Cthulhu*
- *Music of Erich Zann*

I Am Legend (Richard Matheson)

ISBN: 0812523008

- *Witch War*
- *Dance of the Dead*
- *The Funeral*

Ghost Story (Peter Straub)

ISBN: 0671685635

Books of Blood (Clive Barker)

ISBN: 0425165582

- *The Yattering and Jack*
- *Dread*

Suggested Reading (NOT REQUIRED)

Frankenstein - Mary Shelly

The Phantom of the Opera - Gaston Leroux

Hell House - Richard Matheson

A Stir of Echoes - Richard Matheson

Cabal - Clive Barker

The Damnation Game - Clive Barker

The Shining - Stephen King

An American Haunting - Scott A. Johnson

Deadlands - Scott A. Johnson

Course Format

Primarily discussion, the students will be responsible for reading the assigned stories. Toward the end of each assignment, the students will be responsible for completing a short (roughly one page) response to each story. Each unit, represented by a single author, will be followed by an exam.

Policies

- **Attendance** - Students will comply with university standards in attendance. Missed coursework shall be the responsibility of the student. There are no makeup exams. Coursework may be turned in up to one week late with a ten-point penalty. Students may miss a total of three classes per semester, so long as missed work is made up within a reasonable amount of time. The student's grade will drop one letter for each subsequent absence.
- **Tardiness** - Please make every effort to be on time for class. Failure to do so is disruptive not only to the professor, but to the other students who have made such an effort. Two instances of tardiness will be the equivalent of a full absence.
- **Discussion** - As a large part of the students grade is based on class participation, all students will be expected to participate in all discussions.
- **Disruption** - MP3 players, radios, cellphones, and other such distractions are not allowed in the classroom once class has begun. Idle chatter and disrespectful behavior toward the instructor or other students is also not permitted in the classroom.
- **Late Work** - Please make every effort to have work turned in on time. Work may be turned in up to one week after the deadline with a ten-point penalty. There are no make-up exam dates except under extreme circumstances.

Grading

Grades will be determined by the following:

- 30% Discussion/Participation
- 10% Response Papers
- 20% Major Project
- 20% Exams
- 20% Final Exam

Explanations:

- **Participation:** All students are expected to contribute to the class discussion.
- **Response Papers:** Each story or author will be accompanied by a short (one-page) response paper to be submitted to the instructor.
- **Major Project:** Each student will write a paper (5-10 pages) over an author or major work of his or her choosing. This work or author does not need to be on the required or suggested reading list. The paper will examine major elements of horror in the work or author's body of work.
- **Exams:** At the end of each unit will be an exam. The lowest exam grade will be dropped. Should the student miss an exam, he or she can opt to

drop that exam grade instead of scheduling a makeup exam. Exams will be based on BOTH reading and lecture notes.

- **Final Exam:** The final exam is cumulative. All lecture notes and stories will be covered.

Extra Credit: It will be possible for a student to earn up to five points extra on his or her final grade by creating a presentation of no more than fifteen minutes on a single horror author or horror-themed work. Points assigned are at the discretion of the instructor, and will be determined by how much effort the student put into the presentation, the accuracy, etc. Students will have one (1) opportunity to attempt an extra credit assignment.

FINAL EXAM: Wednesday, December 12, 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

About the Instructor

Scott A. Johnson is an internationally-published author in the horror genre. His short stories have appeared in numerous magazines and books, and his novels are available world-wide. He also functions as the Paranormal Studies Editor for Dread Central (<http://www.dreadcentral.com>), where he writes a twice-monthly column, "Cold Spots," about real haunted places in North America. Originally from Texas, he now lives in Monroeville, PA.

Publications

Books (Fiction)

Cane River: A Ghost Story (Forthcoming, Augusta, Harbor House Books)

The Journal of Edwin Gray (chapbook), Naked Snake Press, 2006

Deadlands, Augusta, Harbor House Books, 2005

An American Haunting, Augusta, Harbor House Books, 2004

Books (Non-Fiction/Folklore)

Cold Spots: The Ghosts of San Antonio (Forthcoming, Schiffer Press)

The Mayor's Guide: The Stately Ghosts of Austin (Forthcoming, Augusta, Harbor House Books)

The Mayor's Guide: The Stately Ghosts of Augusta, Augusta, Harbor House Books, 2005

Short Stories

"Rats" - *Dreadtime Stories*, Forthcoming, 2007 (Podcast)

"Of Moss and Bullfrogs" - *Dreadtime Stories*, Forthcoming, 2007 (Podcast)

"Harimoto" - *History is Dead*, NY: Permuted Press, 2007

"The Dinner Party" - *Until Someone Loses an Eye*, MA: Bradford House Publishing, 2007

"Second House from the End of the Block" -, *Haunted Encounters: Living in a Haunted House*, Dallas, TX: Atriad Press, 2007.

"The Girl Next Door" - *All Hallows* (Canada), Fall, 2006

"A Little House in the Woods" - *The Corpse Magazine*, July 2004

"Jock Itch" - *Alien Skin Magazine*, October 2003

"The Drowning Pool" - *Alien Skin Magazine*, July 2003

"Chained to the Pel" - *Persona Literary Journal*, 2002

"Mimes" - *The Rectangle Literary Journal*, 2002

Articles

"Robert the Doll." *Weird Hauntings*, Ed. Joanne Austin, New York: Sterling Press, 2006.

"The Stone Lion Inn." *Weird Hauntings*, Ed. Joanne Austin, New York: Sterling Press, 2006.

"Stone's Public House." *Weird Hauntings*, Ed. Joanne Austin, New York: Sterling Press, 2006.

"The 17-Hundred-90 Inn." *Weird Hauntings*, Ed. Joanne Austin, New York: Sterling Press, 2006.

"The Bullock Hotel." *Weird Hauntings*, Ed. Joanne Austin, New York: Sterling Press, 2006.

"Dead President's Pub & Restaurant." *Weird Hauntings*, Ed. Joanne Austin, New York: Sterling Press, 2006.

"Southern Vermont College." *Weird Hauntings*, Ed. Joanne Austin, New York: Sterling Press, 2006.

"Camarillo State Institution." *Weird Hauntings*, Ed. Joanne Austin, New York: Sterling Press, 2006.

"Old Wyoming State Penitentiary." *Weird Hauntings*, Ed. Joanne Austin, New York:

Sterling Press, 2006.

"Cold Spots Reviews IR-Thermometers!" July 15, 2006, Dread Central,
<<http://www.dreadcentral.com/index.php?name=Sections&req=viewarticle&artid=63&page=1>>.

"Cold Spots Special Report: What Really Happened to Emily Rose?" July 4, 2006,
Dread Central,
<<http://www.dreadcentral.com/index.php?name=Sections&req=viewarticle&artid=65&page=1>>.

"Cold Spots Reviews EMF Meters!" August 1, 2006, Dread Central,
<<http://www.dreadcentral.com/index.php?name=Sections&req=viewarticle&artid=61&page=1>>.

"Fairytales: The Original Horror." *The Wicked Karnival*, Vol 1. Issue 5. pp 21-23,
2005.

"Witchcraft: Respect for the Old Faith." *The Wicked Karnival*, Vol 1. Issue 5. pp 27-
28, 2005.

"Zombies: The Familiar Face of Fear." *The Wicked Karnival*, Vol 1. Issue 6. pp 25-26,
2005.

Cold Spots

Online article series about real haunted places in North America. Written for
Dread Central.

<<http://www.dreadcentral.com/index.php?name=Sections&req=listarticles&secid=2>>

- Lake Jackson
- Robert
- The Legend of the
Bunnyman Bridge
- Hammock House
- Hot and Cold: The Sloss
Furnaces
- Inn Distress
- Cheesman Park
- MARDI-GRAve
- The Pittsburgh Playhouse
- Resurrection Mary
- The Ladd School
- Franklin Castle
- Starvation Heights
- King's Tavern
- The Jerome Grand Hotel
- KiMo Theater
- Lafayette Cemetery
- The Old Jesse Lee Home
for Children
- The Goldfield Hotel
- Forepaugh's Restaurant
- Camarillo State Mental
Hospital
- The Castle and Gauche
- Surratt House
- Lake Compounce
Amusement Park
- Nashotah House and
Seminary
- Stone's Public House

- Old Wyoming State Penitentiary
- The Chelsea Hotel
- McCune Mansion
- The Sage Hill Bed and Breakfast
- Little Big Horn
- The Isles of Shoals
- The Henry Ford Estate/Henry Ford Museum
- Southern Vermont College
- The Brig
- Dead Presidents Pub and Restaurant
- The Bullock Hotel
- The Willard Library
- West Virginia State Penitentiary
- Stones River Battlefield
- Waverly Hills Sanatorium
- The Stone Lion Inn
- The Lemp Mansion
- The Mathias Ham House
- The Crescent Hotel and Spa
- Ringwood Manor
- The Hollenberg Station
- The Night Marchers
- The Argo Hotel
- The Opera House
- Ghosts of The White House
- Bailey's Light
- The Whaley House
- Race Rock Lighthouse
- The Lost Dutchman Mine
- The Ghosts of Gettysburg
- Sprague Mansion
- The Marlboro Psychiatric Hospital
- The St. James Hotel
- The Harvard Exit Theater
- Tillamook Lighthouse
- The Flamingo Hotel

Conference Presentations/Guest Lectures

"So you wanna be a horror author..." Zombie-Fest, Monroeville, PA, October 2007.

Writers Workshop: Instructor. Armadillocon. Austin, TX, August 2006.

"Speculative Fiction in Academia." Apollocon. Houston, TX, September 2005.

"1001 Uses for Duct-Tape in Speculative Fiction." Apollocon. Houston, TX, September 2005.

"Small Press Fiction." Apollocon. Houston, TX, September 2005.

"Texas Ghost Stories." Apollocon. Houston, TX, September 2005.

Writers Workshop: Instructor. Armadillocon. Austin, TX, August 2005.

"Paranormal Romance." Armadillocon. Austin, TX, August 2005.

"Austin Ghost Stories." Armadillocon. Austin, TX, August 2005.

"Speculative Fiction in Academia." Armadillocon. Austin, TX, August 2005.