

## **FA485 Mystery in Film**

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### **Course Description**

This course aims to dwell on the themes of the mystery and unknown in film which are mostly linked with mysterious and metaphysical subjects evolving and thrived from the fear and curiosity it creates in the characters in films.

All the emotions aroused and reactions given by characters in films toward the unknown are linked to the psychologies of the characters. Moving from this point, films of unknown, films of mystery and films based on the subject of 'The Other' will give us a chance to discuss character development and psychology in films.

The course will be carried out based on films and readings from the genres of Mystery, Suspense, Psychological Thrillers, The Other and Science Fiction and class discussions based on these topics.

### **Course Requirements**

The course will be carried out with a series of discussions every week and to participate to the discussions in class, every student must watch the film of the week. Being a participator in the class is the most important requirement of the course. A screening will be arranged for the students who prefer to watch the film in Mithat Alam Film Center.

Every student must moderate a class discussion (with a collaborator) and give a limited presentation to class open up the discussion to class members.

This is the first semester this course is being conducted by the instructor, therefore the outline may change, the films and/or the order of the films may change and every now and then students may be required to scan new readings or watch an extra film to be the 2nd film of the discussion.

### **Grading**

Attendance and Participation in class discussions: 50 percent

Class Presentation: 25 percent

Final Paper: 25 percent (students must declare their films to the class on the 7th week)

### **Readings**

There will be a course reader in Photocopy Room, North Campus Library.

### **Outline**

Week 1:

Introduction to Unknown in Film

Mystery, Unknown, Uncanny

Week 2:

Excerpts from 'Jacob's Ladder', Adrian Lyne, 1990, 113 min.

Psychological thrillers

Week 3:

Excerpts from 'The Tenant', Roman Polanski, 1976, 126 min.

Issues of other, identity, the uncanny in film

Week 4:

Excerpts from 'Rosemary's Baby', 1968, 136 min.

Issues of other, identity, the uncanny in film

Week 5:

Excerpts from 'The Repulsion', Roman Polanski, 1965, 105 min  
Issues of other, identity, the uncanny in film

Week 6:

Excerpts from 'Don't Look Now', Nicholas Roeg, 1973, 110 min.  
The uncanny. The Effect of the location in psychological thrillers  
(Also excerpts from 'Death in Venice', Luchino Visconti, 1971, 130 min. )

Week 7:

Excerpts from 'Les diaboliques', Henri-Georges Clouzot, 1955, 116 min.

Week 8:

Excerpts from 'Rebecca', Alfred Hitchcock, 1940, 130 min.

Week 9:

Excerpts from 'Vertigo', Alfred Hitchcock, 1958, 128 min.

Week 10:

Excerpts from 'The Shining', Stanley Kubrick, 1980, 144 min.

Week 11:

Excerpts from 'An American Werewolf in London', John Landis, 1981, 97 min.

Week 12:

Excerpts from 'Buffy The Vampire Slayer'  
From childhood to Adolescence

Week 13:

Excerpts from 'Buffy The Vampire Slayer'  
From childhood to Adolescence

Addition:

Bonus films from Bela Lugosi.