

## Queen Mary Summer School 2023

SUM501G: British Horror and Fantasy Cinema from Dracula to Harry Potter  
*School of History*

### Course outline

Date: 3 July - 21 July 2023

Level: 5

Credits: 15 (Queen Mary credits)

Course leader: Dr Matt Jacobsen ([m.j.jacobsen@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:m.j.jacobsen@qmul.ac.uk))

Assessment: 1,500-word essay (70%), sequence analysis test (30%)

### Course description:

British cinema is often celebrated for its social realism yet has made significant and influential contributions to the worlds of horror, fantasy, and science fiction. From the Gothic tradition of Dracula to nightmarish visions of London in *28 Days Later* and the spectacular popular fantasies of Doctor Who and Harry Potter, this course investigates this alternative history or 'repressed underside' of British cinema and the ways in which these films have responded to their social and cultural production contexts. This course includes field trips to sites of importance in London, such as Highgate Cemetery.

### Learning outcomes:

On completion of the module, students can expect to have acquired:

- an understanding of the different cultural and socio-historical contexts of British horror films.
- a range of knowledge about British horror films and film-makers, and familiarity with debates on horror and fantasy film in film studies and film history.
- an awareness of the visual and narrative properties of a range of British horror and fantasy films.
- knowledge and application of a range of methodological and theoretical approaches to the study of film.
- the ability to comment on films and engage analytically with film criticism from an informed vantage point and with appropriate critical vocabulary.
- the ability to undertake independent research, seeking out relevant sources and research materials.

### Approximate cost:

The tuition fees for the **British Horror and Fantasy Cinema from Dracula to Harry Potter** course are **£2,100**. There may be additional costs for field trips, such as entry to exhibitions, which will be in the region of **£30-£50** for the whole course.

All reading material is provided digitally so you are not required to purchase any books.

### Assessments:

The course assessments are not compulsory, however, if you wish to transfer credit for this course to your home university it is essential to complete the assignments.

1,500-word essay (70%)

Sequence analysis test (30%)

### Preparation:

Before you arrive on campus, it is advised that you familiarise yourself with the course content before it begins. You will be given instructions for accessing our Virtual Learning Environment (QMplus) before you arrive on campus.

**Teaching:**

The course is taught in two two-hour sessions per day (10.00 - 12.00 and 13.00 - 15.00), held Monday to Thursday each week. The morning session will predominantly be comprised of a lecture, while afternoon sessions will involve discussion and activities based on the material covered in the morning session.

**Course content:**

<b>Session 1</b>	Visions of Other London - 28 Days Later (Danny Boyle, 2002)
<b>Session 2</b>	Horror and Psychoanalysis - Peeping Tom (Michael Powell, 1960)
<b>Session 3</b>	Dracula and the Gothic - Dracula (Terence Fisher, 1958)
<b>Session 4</b>	Witchcraft and the 1970s - The Wicker Man (Robin Hardy, 1973)
<b>Session 5</b>	The Uncanny Labyrinth - Don't Look Now (Nic Roeg, 1973)
<b>Session 6</b>	Sci-Fi and Abjection - Alien (Ridley Scott, 1979)
<b>Session 7</b>	Field trip to see The Woman in Black at the Fortune Theatre.
<b>Session 8</b>	Fairy tales and Feminism - The Company of Wolves (Neil Jordan, 1986)
<b>Session 9</b>	Fantasy and the 1980s - Hellraiser (Clive Barker, 1987)
<b>Session 10</b>	Millennial Horrors - The Descent (Neil Marshall, 2005)
<b>Session 11</b>	Field trip to Highgate Cemetery.

**Suggested reading:**

Rose, James, *Beyond Hammer: British Horror Cinema since 1970* (Auteur, 2009).

Brunsdon, Charlotte, *London in Cinema: The Cinematic City Since 1945* (BFI, 2007).

Jancovich, Mark, (ed.), *Horror: The Film Reader* (Routledge, 2002).

Gelder, Ken, (ed.) *The Horror Reader* (Routledge, 2000).

Creed, Barbara, *The Monstrous-Feminine* (Routledge, 1995).

Hutchings, Peter, *Dracula* (BFI, 2003).

Smith, Justin, *Withnail and Us: Cult Films and Film Cults in British Cinema* (IB Tauris, 2010).

Wells, Paul, *The Horror Genre: From Beelzebub to Blair Witch* (Wallflower, 2000).

Walden, Victoria, *Studying Hammer Horror* (Auteur, 2017).

Please note that the information provided may be subject to change.