

COURSE DETAIL

AMERICAN HORROR STORIES

Country

United Kingdom - England

Host Institution

University of London, Queen Mary

Program(s)

University of London, Queen Mary

UCEAP Course Level

Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)

History

UCEAP Course Number

121

UCEAP Course Suffix**UCEAP Official Title**

AMERICAN HORROR STORIES

UCEAP Transcript Title

AMERICAN HORROR

UCEAP Quarter Units

6.00

UCEAP Semester Units

4.00

Course Description

With a career spanning nearly 50 years, Stephen King is one of the world's most popular and influential writers, his stories and iconic characters forming an integral part of the American cultural landscape. Film adaptations of his work continue to receive critical acclaim and extraordinary box office success. The analysis of Horror film and fiction can reveal cultural anxieties at significant socio-historic moments. In this course, we will explore the ways in which Stephen King's shorter novels, novellas and film adaptations of his work interrogate the American psyche, capturing its fears and apprehensions at defining points in modern history. Taking an interdisciplinary approach, this QMUL Model course will use King's work as a lens through which to examine developments in American horror cinema and fiction, investigating the articulation of cultural anxieties from the New England Puritan imagination in the influential works of Edgar Allen Poe and H.P. Lovecraft to the disillusioned aftermath of the Vietnam War in 'Carrie' and contemporary contexts of gender, empowerment and sexuality in 'Gerald's Game'. While the course will focus on the Horror texts for which King is renowned, we will look at his contribution to other genres, from the depiction of boyhood in 'Stand by Me' to the prison melodrama of the world's favorite movie, 'The Shawshank Redemption'. We will read and reflect on what we can learn about our own writing from King's memoir and reflection on the writing process, 'On Writing'.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number

HST6380

Host Institution Course Title

AMERICAN HORROR STORIES

Host Institution Course Details

Host Institution Campus

Queen Mary

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department

History

Course Last Reviewed

2020-2021

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