ENGL 2316-001: Literature and Culture:  
Slasher? I Barely Know Her—Genders, Genres, and Horror  

Summer I 2020  
Online  
https://bb9.tamucc.edu/  

Instructor  
Dr. Jarred Wiehe  
Office  
Zoom Meeting Room ID 203-985-0839  
Virtual Office Hours  
M/W/F 12-2pm and by appointment  
Email  
jarred.wiehe@tamucc.edu  
Skype  
Jarred.Wiehe  

*I reserve the right to make changes to this syllabus, as the need arises.*

**Course Description**

Final girls. Men in ski masks. Folks wearing people’s skin. Gender-queer bodies threatening everyone. Horror literatures provide a radical way in to conversations about which bodies matter and which bodies splatter. Using foundational Gothic fiction (Walpole’s *The Castle of Otranto*, and Marsh’s *The Beetle*), iconic slasher films (*Halloween*, *Sleepaway Camp*, *Texas Chainsaw Massacre*, *Scream*), and contemporary film theory, this course will ask you to analyze the ways different genres and mediums frame the stakes of watching bodies being ripped apart.

We will be working through these texts by exchanging asynchronous writing and collaborative documents. We will not be meeting during the “10-11:15” hours as a full online class, though I will be available during those times for meetings.

**Required Texts**


**Course Goals**

Students who successfully complete ENGL 2316 will be able to

- Consider how ideas, values, beliefs, and other aspects of culture express human experience
- Examine the connections between literary works and their social, historical, and cultural contexts.
- Use literature to explore ideas that foster aesthetic and intellectual creation in order to understand the human condition across cultures and nationalities.
- Recognize the distinctive characteristics of relevant literary periods, genres, and writers.
- Understand and use basic literary terms and concepts.
- Develop analytic skills by close reading, class discussion, and writing.
- Use writing as a tool for learning.
Student Learning Outcomes (Higher Education Coordinating Board of the State of Texas)

Critical Thinking: CT1. Generate and communicate ideas by combining, changing, or reapplying existing information.
CT3. Analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information.
Communication Skills: CS1. Develop, interpret, and express ideas through written communication.
Personal Responsibility: PR1. Evaluate choices and actions, and relate consequences to decision making.

Grading and Evaluation
All grades will be calculated according to the percentage formula below. No grades will be discussed over email. Please talk to me in person if you are concerned about your grade.

Final Grade Formula:
- Reading Quizzes: 20%
- Screenshot Journals: 20%
- Midterm Exam: 20%
- “Scream Queens” Project: 15%
- Context/Culture Paper: 25%

Reading Quizzes: Weekly reading quizzes based on the texts and in-class discussions. I will drop the two lowest grades of 12 quizzes, leaving the end an average of 10 quizzes.

Screenshot Journals: For each film, you will be screenshotting two moments and close reading the scene for the formal features of film. A specific prompt will be provided online.

Midterm Exam: An exam given at mid-term to evaluate critical reading and writing skills.

“Scream Queens” Project: A collaborative, creative project that asks you to theorize iconic death scenes. A specific prompt will be given in class.

Cultural Context Presentation and Paper: A presentation on in-class text within its social/historical context. There will be a 2-3 page essay, which will go through peer-review and revision processes. A specific prompt will be given in class.

POLICIES
Disabilities Accommodations
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall 116.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.
**Academic Advising**
The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any amendment must be approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and requirements specified in the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood #203. For more information please call 361-825-3466.

**Dropping a Class**
I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with your academic advisor, the Financial Aid Office, and me, before you decide to drop this course. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. Friday, June 19th is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.

**Participation**
A student’s class participation is vastly hindered by said student not coming to class. Plan to attend every class. If you have a legitimate problem, I'm willing to try and work something out. However, you must, if at all possible, bring such problems to my attention before class. If you have mandatory absences (for sports or religious observances), they must be brought to my attention well in advance, but they will not count against you.

**Late Papers**
I love met deadlines. I will not accept late assignments—papers and Blackboard posts—simply because of the necessity of having those items for class activities. All papers and writing assignments must be ready to be turned in at the beginning of the class they are due. However, I am willing to talk about problems and see if we can come to a reasonable solution if you approach me in advance.

**Grade Appeals**
As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.03, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.03, Student Grade Appeals. These documents are accessible online at: [http://academicaffairs.tamu.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.C0.03_student_grade_appeals.pdf](http://academicaffairs.tamu.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.C0.03_student_grade_appeals.pdf). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean's office in the college in which the course is taught. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal in CLA, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, [http://cla.tamu.edu/about/student-resources.html](http://cla.tamu.edu/about/student-resources.html).

**Statement of Civility**
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has a diverse student population that represents the population of the state. Our goal is to provide you with a high quality educational experience that is free from repression. You are responsible for following the rules of the University, city, state and federal government. We expect that you will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

**Academic Integrity/Plagiarism**
University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.) In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in a failing grade.

**Statement of Academic Continuity**
In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane and classes could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi, this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.

**Course Schedule:** As we will be meeting asynchronously online, the following is a reading timeline for your daily writing posts. You are responsible for uploading your reading responses and Screenshot Journals on the day of the required reading/viewing. All films are available on Blackboard.

**Wk 1 Specters and Space:**

6/1: Intro, syllabus, crash course in Gothic fiction; *Castle of Otranto* (two prefaces and Chapter 1)

6/2: *Otranto* (2-3)

6/3: *Otranto* (4-end)

6/4: *Rosemary’s Baby*

**Wk 2 6/8:** *House of the Devil*

6/9: Clover “Her Body Himself”

6/10: *Halloween*

6/11: *Scream*
Wk 3: 6/15: *Scream 2*

6/16: MidTerm

6/17: *The Beetle*

6/18: *The Beetle*

Wk 4 6/22: *The Beetle*

6/23: *The Beetle*

6/24: *Sleepaway Camp*

6/25: *Texas Chainsaw Massacre*

Wk 5 6/29: *Candyman*

6/30: *Sorry to Bother You*

7/1: Video Game Day

7/2: Scream Queen Presentations