



This is an abridged sample syllabus. Information is subject to change. Full syllabus will be distributed to registered students when term begins.

ASIA_V 465 - Japanese Horror

Colleen Laird

Japanese horror became a national brand in the 1990s and Japanese horror directors led a transnational renaissance of the genre. As Nakata Hideo, Shimizu Takashi, Miike Takeshi, and Kurosawa Kiyoshi transformed psychological horror in Japan, Wes Craven and Kevin Williamson deconstructed the American slasher film with *Scream* (1996), inspiring a trend of self-reflective, boundary-pushing horror films. In the UK, Danny Boyle gave new life to the zombie film with *28 Days Later* (2002), and in Mexico, Guillermo del Toro de-centered gothic horror from its British origins in *The Devil's Backbone* (2001). In this course, we will focus on the J-Horror boom that was instrumental to the global revitalization of horror at the turn of the century. As we encounter culturally specific and transnational aspects of horror, this course asks three questions: Why does horror scare us? How does horror scare us? What can horror teach us? Readings are in English. Films are in Japanese with English subtitles.

Mode of Delivery: Online

Sample Readings

Shin, Chi-sun. "Excessive' Remake: From The Quiet Family to The Happiness of the Katakuris." *Transnational Cinemas* 3, no. 1 (2012): 1–21.

Wee, Valerie. "Visual Aesthetics and Ways of Seeing: Comparing 'Ringu' and 'The Ring.'" *Cinema Journal* 50, no. 2 (2011): 41–60.

Martin, Adrian, and Christina Álvarez López. "Proximity in Kiyoshi Kurosawa's CREEPY." Mubi Channel on YouTube. 2017. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HLoSHDCtNcY>.

Assignments

Class Discussion & Group Work|20

Group Project: J Horror Film Pitch|20

Self-intro & Horror Reflection, Uncanny Synthesis, Mise-en-scène Study, Sound Study, Cinematography Study, Editing Study|5 each

Final Project: Proposal, Thesis Statement|2.5 each

Final Project: Outline, Research, Project|5, 5, 20