

Inquiry Into the Modern Horror Film

As one tracks the popularity of horror movies through the 20th and into the 21st Century, what we find is that during times of societal and emotional unrest (such as the Vietnam War, the nuclear arms race of the 1980's, and the Iraq War today) horror films thrive. In this class, we will be watching horror movies (such as George Romero's "*Dead*" movies, Tobe Hooper's *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre*, John Carpenter's *Halloween*, and Eli Roth's *Hostel*) looking at them both through their contemporary critical conversations, as well as through different works that explore concepts of "catharsis"—ranging from Aristotle's *Poetics* to Stephen King's *Danse Macabre*.