

(Course description for 102: Kelli Kaiser- "Inquiry Into Murder and the Macabre")

The topic for this section is "Inquiry Into Murder and the Macabre." We will investigate our cultural fascination with murder and the macabre and analyze how our conceptions of the "horrific" transform through various textual mediums. What happens when we view "true crime" through the lens of a short story or a popular American film? Why do authors romanticize murder and why, in turn, do we as an audience crave the macabre? We will approach the topic through a wide range of disciplines, including sociology and cultural studies, psychology, literature, film studies, criminal justice, and gender studies. By the end of the course, students will be able to analyze their own understanding and interpretations of what happens when "murder becomes literary" through various disciplines of research, and demonstrate the critical reading and writing skills necessary for academic success through active scholarship.