

Inquiry into Hauntings in American Culture

In the technology-driven culture of the present where science can explain away most superstitions, why do so many Americans still believe in ghosts and the supernatural? In fact, since just before the millennium until now, paranormal entertainment—both fact and fiction—is as popular as was at the turn of the last century, if not more. This class will explore that question and propose to answer it by examining hauntings as they appear in American literature and on the American landscape. Students will explore and investigate Appalachian ghost lore as well as reading and writing about such landmark supernatural writings as *The Haunting of Hill House*, *The Amityville Horror*, and others. Ghostly films and websites will also be surveyed. Warning: do not take this class if you are weak of constitution.