

	<p>School of Arts & Science</p> <p>SOCIAL SCIENCES DEPARTMENT</p> <p>ANTH 290</p> <p>Special Topics in Anthropology</p> <p>Anthropology of Monsters</p> <p>Fall 2015</p>
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COURSE OUTLINE

Using an anthropological approach, this course will explore monsters, from around the world, past and present, and why they are so ubiquitous in people's imaginations. Students will be introduced to the main approaches to the study of monsters and the monstrous within anthropology, and apply these approaches to well-known monstrous being such as vampires, zombies, windigo, kaijus, and more. We will examine the commonalities as well as the differences in monsters from around the world, and apply the anthropological understanding of monsters to popular culture.

1. Instructor Information

(a)	Instructor:	Tara Tudor		
(b)	Office Hours:	Tuesday 1:30-2:20, Thursday 1:30-2:20, or by appointment		
(c)	Location:	Young 212A		
(d)	Phone:	250-370-3375		
(e)	Email:	tudor@camosun.ca		

2. Intended Learning Outcomes

1. Explain the main theoretical approaches to the study of monsters;
2. Describe the common features of monsters from around the world
3. Illustrate cross-cultural variation of monsters
4. Explicate the cultural construction of monsters
5. Define myth, and demonstrate its function and structure
6. Apply anthropological knowledge to popular representations of monsters
7. Write about complex topics in an academic style
8. Perform verbal presentations about topics related to the course in a clear and articulate manner

3. Course Schedule

Week	Tuesday	Thursday	Readings
Week 1: Sept 8 & 10	Introduction to Course; Why Study Monsters?	How to Approach Monsters	Gilmore – How to Approach Monsters
Week 2: Sept 15 & 17	Anthropology, Myth & Ritual Discussion of Stymeist	Guest Lecture	Bowie – Myth and Stymeist – Myth and the Monster Cinema
Week 3: Sept 22 & 24	Anthropology, Myth & Ritual	Windigo	Carlson – Reviving Witiko
Week 4: Sept 29 & Oct 1	Vampires – Origins & History	Vampires & Colonial Africa	
Week 5: Oct 6 & 8	Ancient Greeks, Giant Fossils Discussion of Mayor	The Science of Monsters	Mayor – The Gold-Guarding Griffin
Week 6: Oct 13 & 15	Contemporary Trends in Popular Culture Presentations	Contemporary Trends in Popular Culture Presentations	No Readings
Week 7: Oct 20 & 22	Catch-up & Review	Midterm Exam	No Readings
Week 8: Oct 27 & 29	Monsters of Japan: Kaijus & Technology out of Control Start the film <i>Pacific Rim</i>	Continue <i>Pacific Rim</i> Film response & discussion	Foster – Early Modern Past
Week 9: Nov 3 & 5	Monsters of the Andes Discussion of Oliver-Smith	Sri Lankan Demons & Illness	Oliver-Smith- The Pishtaco
Week 10: Nov 10 & 12	Monsters of the Philippines	Documentary: The Aswang Phenomena Film response & discussion	The Serpent & the Rainbow Part I
Week 11: Nov 17 & 19	The Ways & Nature of the Zombie	Haitian Zombies & Voodoo Origins	The Serpent & the Rainbow Part II
Week 12: Nov 24 & 26	Critique of Davis & Other Models Discussion of Davis	Zombies, Consumerism & Millennial Capitalism	The Serpent & the Rainbow Part III
Week 13: Dec 1 & 3	Zombies & Popular Culture	Start watching film <i>28 Days Later</i>	Comaroff & Comaroff
Week 14: Dec 8 & 10	Continue <i>28 Days Later</i> Film response and discussion	Catch up and review Article Review due	No Reading

4. Basis of Student Assessment

(a) Assignments (30%)

Assignment One (presentation & paper) 15%

Students will make one in-class presentation. The presentations will be about an item of popular culture (film, video game, comic book, or novel) and how the content merges with key course themes. Students will also hand in a 500-750 word overview of the analysis. Please see handout for more information. Students will not be permitted to make-up the presentation portion of this assignment if they miss the designated presentation date. Information on my late policy can be found under section six of the course outline.

Assignment Two (article review) 15%

Students will write a critical article review on the article *Alien-Nation: Zombies, Immigrants, and Millennial Capitalism* by Jean and John Comaroff. Please see handout for more information.

(b) Exams (60%)

Exams are comprised of definitions, short and long answer questions. The final exam is not cumulative with the exception of core concepts and theoretical approaches which are relevant throughout the course. Exams must be written during the scheduled times unless a physician's medical certificate is presented to the instructor. There will be no exceptions without a medical certificate. Students will not be permitted to write an additional make-up exam in order to improve a grade. The final exam will be written during the scheduled exam period after the last week of classes in December. Do not make holiday travel plans until the exam timetable is posted.

Dates for the exams are as follows:

Mid-Term (30%): October 20th

Final Exam (30%): Scheduled during the final exam period

(c) Participation (15%)

Participation is based on attendance and engagement in class discussions, as well as short commentaries on films we will watch in class. Please come to class having completed the assigned weekly reading(s) and ready to partake in a critical discussion. A list of questions for the films will be posted on D2L. Students are to read over the questions before the start of the films and write a brief (one paragraph) response to at least one question. The response is to be handed in as you are leaving class.

5. Required Material

Books

Davis, W. (1985). *The Serpent and the Rainbow*. New York, NY : Simon & Schuster.

Articles (Available through D2L)

Bowie, F. (2006). Myth. In *The Anthropology of Religion: An Introduction* (pp. 267-299). Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing.

Carlson, N. D. (2009). Reviving Witiko (Windigo): An Ethnohistory of "Cannibal Monsters" in the Athabasca District of Northern Alberta, 1878-1910. *Ethnohistory*, 56(3), 355-394.

Comaroff, J. and Comaroff, J. (2002). Alien-Nation: Zombies, Immigrants, and Millennial Capitalism. *The South Atlantic Quarterly*, 101(4).

Foster, M. D. (2012). Early Modern Past to Postmodern Future; Changing Discourses of Japanese Monsters. In A. S. Mittman (Ed.) *The Ashgate Research Companion to Monsters and the Monstrous*. Burlington, Vermont: Ashgate Publishing.

Gilmore, D. (2003). How to Approach Monsters. In *Monsters: Evil Beings, Mythical Beasts and All Manner of Imaginary Terrors* (pp. 11-22). Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press.

Mayor, A. (2001). The Gold-Guarding Griffin. In *The First Fossil Hunters: Paleontology in Greek and Roman Times* (pp. 16-53). Princeton: Princeton University Press

Oliver-Smith, A. (1969). The Pishtaco: Institutionalized Fear in Highland Peru. *The Journal of American Folklore* (326). 363.

Stymeist, D. H. (2009). Myth and the Monster Cinema. *Anthropologica*, (2). 395.

6. Instructional Policies

6.1 Late Penalty

All assignments must be completed and submitted on the date assigned. All late written work will be penalized **1 mark** per day late unless an extension is legitimately warranted and approved by the instructor well in advance of the assignment due date. Assignments will not be accepted beyond one week of their due date.

6.2 Written Assignments

All assignments must be handed into me at the beginning of class. If submitting an assignment as required is not possible due to illness please contact me *immediately* to make alternative arrangements. I do not accept emailed assignments. All assignments must be typewritten, double-spaced, pages numbered and properly cited and referenced using APA referencing format.

6.3 Mark/Grade Challenges and Appeals

A student wishing to question a mark assigned by the instructor on any course evaluation component must clearly articulate in writing the specific element of the assignment being questioned as well as a reason supporting a change in the mark. The Student Appeals Procedure can be found in the college calendar.

6.4 Student Responsibility

It is each student's responsibility to familiarize her/himself with course and college policies. Students experiencing difficulties during the term are encouraged to talk to the instructor at the earliest opportunity.

7. Grading System

Standard Grading System (GPA)

Percentage	Grade	Description	Grade Point Equivalency
90-100	A+		9
85-89	A		8
80-84	A-		7
77-79	B+		6
73-76	B		5
70-72	B-		4
65-69	C+		3
60-64	C		2

50-59	D	Minimum level of achievement for which credit is granted; a course with a "D" grade cannot be used as a prerequisite.	1
0-49	F	Minimum level has not been achieved.	0

8. Recommended Materials or Services to Assist Students to Succeed Throughout the Course

It is recommended that for written assignments students use the writing centre and consult the Social Science Research Manual (available for purchase in the Camosun College bookstore and on reserve in the library).

LEARNING SUPPORT AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

There are a variety of services available for students to assist them throughout their learning. This information is available in the College Calendar, Registrar's Office or the College web site at <http://www.camosun.bc.ca>

ACADEMIC CONDUCT POLICY

There is an Academic Conduct Policy. It is the student's responsibility to become familiar with the content of this policy. The policy is available in each School Administration Office, Registration, and on the College web site in the Policy Section.

www.camosun.bc.ca/divisions/pres/policy/2-education/2-8