

**COURSE ASSESSMENT REPORT**

**I. Background Information**

1. Course assessed:  
 Course Discipline Code and Number: HUM 185  
 Course Title: The Horror Film  
 Division/Department Codes:
  
2. Semester assessment was conducted (check one):  
 Fall 20\_\_  
 Winter 2008\_\_  
 Spring/Summer 20\_\_
  
3. Assessment tool(s) used: check all that apply.  
 Portfolio  
 Standardized test  
 Other external certification/licensure exam (specify):  
 Survey  
 Prompt  
 Departmental exam  
 Capstone experience (specify):  
 Other (specify):
  
4. Have these tools been used before?  
 Yes  
 No

If yes, have the tools been altered since its last administration? If so, briefly describe changes made.

5. Indicate the number of students assessed/total number of students enrolled in the course.  
 28 out of 30 enrolled
  
6. Describe how students were selected for the assessment.  
 All students present on the days the surveys were administered took part.

**II. Results**

1. Briefly describe the changes that were implemented in the course as a result of the previous assessment.  
 This was the first assessment.
  
2. State each outcome (verbatim) from the master syllabus for the course that was assessed.  
 Students will increase their self-reported appreciation of and ability to understand horror cinema.
  
3. Briefly describe assessment results based on data collected during the course assessment, demonstrating the extent to which students are achieving each of the learning outcomes listed above. ***Please attach a summary of the data collected.***  
 Between the entry and exit questionnaires, there was some change, but very little, in response to question #1, "I watch horror films for pleasure regularly." The data suggest that most of the students entered the class with a positive attitude toward horror films, and that the class did little or nothing to change this subjective perception of the subject matter. Much greater change was found in the remaining questions, which deal with students' ability to analyze, interpret, and critique films; students' perception of horror films as artistic, culturally significant, and reflective of the human condition; and students' understanding of the history of the genre. On questions 2-10 of the exit questionnaire, almost all students answered "strongly agree" or "agree," with the sole anomaly being 5 "uncertain" responses to question 7, "I am able to identify the criteria I use when I analyze a horror film." While there were a total of 36 responses in the "disagree" and "strongly disagree" categories for all questions on the entry questionnaire, there were only 4 such responses in the exit questionnaire. "Uncertain" responses dropped from 75 on the entry questionnaire to 15 on the exit questionnaire.

**COURSE ASSESSMENT REPORT**

4. For each outcome assessed, indicate the standard of success used, and the percentage of students who achieved that level of success. *Please attach the rubric/scoring guide used for the assessment.*

Here the standard of success is defined on the Master Syllabus as students' increasing their scores on the questionnaires "by .3 on the average survey score: for example 4.1 to 4.4". All students surveyed achieved this outcome overall. In fact they moved beyond it, if the standard of success were defined as students' responding to the exit questionnaire items with either "agree" or "strongly agree" answers. For all answers on the exit questionnaire, there was a 92% success rate as defined by this standard. Only question 7, mentioned above, had a significantly lower indicator of success, 75%.

5. Describe the areas of strength and weakness in students' achievement of the learning outcomes shown in assessment results.

**Strengths:** Students' self-reporting of their appreciation of and ability to understand horror cinema grew notably from the beginning of the semester to the end. Students reported gaining confidence in their ability to analyze horror films, comprehend their artistic merits, understand their relevance to personal and cultural enrichment, and have an awareness of the historical developments of the genre. Over all, they took a film genre they enjoyed and learned to translate that appreciation into academic terms.

**Weaknesses:** "I am able to identify the criteria I use when I analyze a horror film" was the only question which seemed to indicate confusion or lack of success on the students' part.

**III. Changes influenced by assessment results**

1. If weaknesses were found (see above) or students did not meet expectations, describe the action that will be taken to address these weaknesses.

A little more discussion of the specific criteria I use in choosing films for the course, and discussion in class centering on why the students feel a film was particularly strong, would be a good starting point. A handout about criteria for evaluating a horror film might also be useful.

2. Identify intended changes that will be instituted based on results of this assessment activity (check all that apply). Please describe changes and give rationale for change.

- a.  Outcomes/Assessments on the Master Syllabus

Change/rationale: Change current method of evaluating outcome #3 to one measuring students' increase in answers on the questionnaires from "strongly disagree" through "uncertain" to "agree" and "strongly agree"./Rationale: This method may better capture the increase in student ability which we seek to measure.

- b.  Objectives/Evaluation on the Master Syllabus  
Change/rationale:

- c.  Course pre-requisites on the Master Syllabus  
Change/rationale:

- d.  1<sup>st</sup> Day Handouts  
Change/rationale:

- e.  Course assignments  
Change/rationale:

- f.  Course materials (check all that apply)  
 Textbook  
 Handouts  
 Other:

- g.  Instructional methods

- h.  Individual lessons & activities  
Change/rationale: See # 1 above.

COURSE ASSESSMENT REPORT

3. What is the timeline for implementing these actions? Summer semester 2008.

IV. Future plans

1. Describe the extent to which the assessment tools used were effective in measuring student achievement of learning outcomes for this course.

Satisfactory: I learned that students are becoming more confident and conversant with the horror film as a legitimate academic area of study, rather than simply as entertainment.

2. If the assessment tools were not effective, describe the changes that will be made for future assessments.

3. Which outcomes from the master syllabus have been addressed in this report?

All \_\_\_\_\_ Selected X

If "All", provide the report date for the next full review: \_\_\_\_\_

If "Selected", provide the report date for remaining outcomes: X Fall 2008: Outcome 1; Winter 2009: Outcome 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Submitted by:

Name: Charles Aringer / Charles Aringer Date: 6/2/08  
Print/Signature

Department Chair: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 6/3/08  
Print/Signature

Dean: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: JUN 05 2008  
Print/Signature

logged 6/6/08 sjv