Movie Monsters: Monster Movies

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Movies are a powerful cultural force in society. A potent character in the history of movies has been the monster—a malevolent entity lurking on the edge of civilization, world, or psyche, who is dedicated to our destruction. Traditionally, movie monsters have represented the other in society. Movie plots consist of a protagonist (hero) battling an antagonist (nemesis). Who has been this antagonist in American movies? Who has been the nemesis, other, monster through our national history? This course examines the monster in American movies. Specifically, we will exam how monsters featured in American films have changed through the years as a reflection of our collective fears; unresolved problems; and shared historic, religious, political, and racial biases. Let’s look at who American culture has designated as the feared and hated other. Who has been deemed the monster in our culture?

Week One
Introductions to the class and of students. Review of the films.

Week Two: Movie Monsters
Shadow of the Vampire

Week Three: Monsters from the Id
Forbidden Planet

Week Four: American Ghost Stories
Sleepy Hallow

Week Five: Monsters from the Deep
Pacific Rim

Week Six: Human Monsters
Silence of the Lambs

Week Seven: Human Made Monsters
Alien: Covenant
Week Eight: Monster Making Environments
It

Week Nine: Monsters from Outer Space
Arrival

Week Ten: Student Presentations