

The Inconceivable Syllabus

Course Name: The Cult Film DeCal: Enough Said

Term: Spring 2017 Location: 175 Barrows

Time: Tuesday, 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm (Screenings until 7pm)

Instructor of Record: Linus Huang

Course Facilitators: Andrew Shibata, Georgia Savoca, Sarah Alford

Course Email: ashibata@berkeley.edu, gsavoca@berkeley.edu, salford10@berkeley.edu

Course Description: This course is designed around evaluating various cult films through historical and cultural frameworks. We will be looking at films such as the cult classic, *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*, as well as more recent films like *The Room*. If you have no idea what any of those movies are, that is completely fine! In this course, we will be watching these movies as well as discussing how aspects of them shaped the film's identity and the genre at large. At the end of the semester, students will create a presentation making an argument as to why the film of their choice should be considered a cult film.

Key Learning Proposals: Students will be able to analyze the social and cultural aspects of the movie going experience and have an understanding of the historical context of cult films over the years. Students will gain insight into the subjectivity involved in defining cult films. Students will explore features of films that are "so bad it's good" to address the question of what makes a film good. A side benefit is a newfound, or reinforced, love of cult films.

Assignments: 1 mid-semester write-up and 1 final group project

Assignment details to be given during respective weeks

Late work will not be accepted. You had one job!

Grading: 30% Attendance

30% Class Choice Film Proposal

40% Final Project

Passing is defined as a grade 70% or higher

Attendance: You may have up to 2 unexcused absences for full attendance credit.

Readings: Readings are not mandatory, but will be referenced for large portions of the discussion portions of meetings

Course Overview:

Each topic spans two meetings: the first involves screening the focus film and discussing the topic's application to the focus film; the second addresses the topic in relation to cult films as a whole through small group and class-wide discussion.

Film screening meetings denoted with (*)

Dates	Topics	Focus Film
02/07 (*)	Course Introduction Defining Cult Films	Secret (shh)
02/14 (*) 02/21	The History and Social Impact of Cult Films Overview of early cult films and most iconic cult films; Cult films as reaction to social and political movements; Development of fan communities Readings and Resources: Cult Cinema Summary of <i>The Room</i> traditions	The Rocky Horror Picture Show Note: RHPS midnight showing at the Albany Twin Theater 03/11
02/28 (*) 03/07	Screening Traditions and Audience Participation Screening rituals as defining characteristics of some cult films; Looking into midnight movie category; Identifying bases for audience participation Readings and Resources: The Disaster Artist	The Room
03/14 (*) 03/21 (*)	The Making of Cult Films Tracing the often disastrous production processes for cult films; Comparison of productions between cult films and successful mainstream films; Insights from actors' autobiographical accounts	Troll 2 Best Worst Movie

	<p>Readings and Resources: As You Wish</p> <p>Assignment: Class Choice Film Proposal (Due 04/11)</p>	
03/28	No Class - Spring Break!	
04/04 (*) 04/11	<p>Focus On A Particular Filmmaker - Quentin Tarantino</p> <p>Many filmmakers produce films that people can immediately recognize as their work; Case study analysis using all of the above topics</p> <p>Final Group Project: The Final Something (Due 05/02)</p>	Pulp Fiction
04/18 (*)	Class Choice Film	TBD
04/25	<p>The Final Something Presentations</p> <p>Final DeCal meeting and Project Presentations</p>	