

Extra Credit Opportunity: Course Reflection

Hopefully, you're gaining a lot from this course. It can be beneficial to periodically pause during your work and reflect on that work thus far. Articulating (being forced to externalize, to communicate, to write about) these ideas can be even more generative, allowing you to arrive at new insights not possible if you merely internalized such reflections. With this in mind, I'm providing another opportunity for extra credit in our course via your own reflection on the course thus far.

You may choose to compose your own personal reflection on the course thus far and submit it via Canvas>Assignments as an attached Word document. This is just a reflection, not an essay, but it should be **a minimum of 800 words**, clearly written, and logically organized. (As always, if your reflection is incredibly sloppy, hastily thrown together, or otherwise insufficient, I reserve the right to not give you that extra credit.)

I don't expect you to integrate outside sources into your reflection, but if you do, you should properly cite those sources (in [MLA 9th edition citation format](#)) and include an appropriate Works Cited at the end of your reflection. Note that a Works Cited page does not count towards the final word count.

In writing your reflection, try to address some/all of the following questions: How are you feeling about the course so far? What have you learned and/or how has your perception of literature (especially the literature of horror) changed/improved? Why? (Or why not? You should feel free to critique the class as well, but please remember that your instructor is a human being who is trying his best; critique honestly, but please be kind while doing so. It's fine to offer some constructive criticism/reasonable suggestions for improvement as well.) How has your reading/consumption of literature and/or horror media changed? What new insights can you share in terms of the function of horror media or why we tend to find certain things/concepts frightening? Why compose horror media? Why consume it? What scares us and why? What are your goals for yourself in this course and how are you working to achieve them? How's it going for you so far? What are your next steps to achieve those goals?

The purpose of this reflection is for you to pause, step back, and deeply consider how your approach to reading, to writing, to literature, to horror media, and to fear in general has possibly changed via our work in this course so far. As you reflect:

- You may want to revisit your own initial goals for the course, which you stated in our "Class Introductions" (Canvas>Discussions>Class Introductions) as well as our earliest class discussions of student fears and goals.
- You might also want to revisit our Course Syllabus (Canvas>Files), especially "Course Description" and "Course Objectives." Do you feel we are achieving these objectives?

Somewhere at the very top or very bottom of your reflection, please indicate your privacy wishes for your reflection, in terms of publication on [our course website](#):

- Private: Don't share my work.
- Anonymous: Share my work anonymously (with all identifying info removed).
- Public: Share my work with my name (first name and last initial) attached.
- See also "Student Work Release Form - Course Website" (Canvas>Files>Assignments).

If you write a thoughtful, sincere, and productive reflection, I will add one (1) point to your final course grade at the end of the semester. For you, this could determine the difference between a B+ and an A-, or between an A- and an A, etc.

Deadline: I'm posting this opportunity on March 7, around the halfway point in our semester together. You can submit this reflection at any time between now and before our final regular class session. So, the final deadline would be 10:10am on Mon. April 28, the day of our final regular class session. Submit it as an attached Word document via Canvas>Assignments. Remember to include your privacy wishes somewhere at the top or bottom of the attached document.

As always, if you have any questions about this, please speak with me before or after class, visit my office hours, or email me.