COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an introduction to the « End of the World » (the end of Mankind / of the Earth / of the whole Universe) as a topic or as an archetype in a selection of narratives ranging from religious and prophetical writings to modern « apocalyptic / post-apocalyptic fiction ». The survey will be both chronological (from prebiblical and biblical writings to 21st c. cinema) and thematic (destructions and renewals, chronologies and predictions, war and famine, death and the undead).

A good portion of the narratives (texts or films) that we will consider are from France or from the « Francophonie ». In some cases, French texts / films will serve merely as an example of genres and tropes that are common to several cultures (ex.: zombie movies from France). In other cases, studying French cultural artefacts will help us look at the origins of specific tropes (ex. 1: Jean-Baptiste François Xavier Cousin de Grainville, Le Dernier Homme / The Last Man, 1805, which is the first of its genre; ex. 2: the « zonbi » in French Haitian literature).

NOTE: The language of the class is English. The class may be taken without any capacity in the French language. Readings will be available in English or in French, and assignments can be submitted in English or in French.

PREREQUISITE : None

REQUIRED TEXT


Available in the bookstore of the Student Union Building.
The original French version is available online:
Scanned original edition: t.1 https://gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/bpt6k83202k
  t.2 https://gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/bpt6k83205m

All other reading material will be distributed in class, and/or available on Brightspace.

EVALUATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evaluation Type</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading quizzes (3)</td>
<td>14 %</td>
<td>Less than 10 minute, in-class quizzes on required readings.</td>
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<td>Jan. 16. Quiz 1 (Jules Verne) 3 %</td>
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<td>Feb. 13. Quiz 2 (Camille Flammarion) 7 %</td>
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<td>March 12. Quiz 3 (Albert Camus) 4 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tests (3)</td>
<td>44 %</td>
<td>In-class, multiple-choice and short-answer tests (20-30 min.) based on the lectures and readings. Include questions about latest readings.</td>
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<td>Jan. 30. Test 1 (inc. Cousin de Grainville) 17 %</td>
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<td>March 5. Test 2 (inc. Rosny aîné) 17 %</td>
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<td>April 2. Test 3. 10 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay</td>
<td>30 %</td>
<td>Short essay (3-5 pages) focussing on specific topics, concepts, and commonplaces discussed in the classroom, as seen in a work of fiction (short stories, novels, films, TV series, videogames, etc.) not covered in the classroom.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contributions to the forum</td>
<td>12 %</td>
<td>Contributions, throughout the semester, to the BrightSpace forum on motifs / tropes; Minimum of 6 contributions (i.e. 6 examples and/or variants); Grade is based on average quality of contributions.</td>
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CALENDAR

Texts & other media in red are to be read/consulted at home, in order to prepare for classes, quizzes and tests
Other texts will simply be presented, or referred to, in the classroom

January 9  FLOODS & CYCLICAL DESTRUCTIONS
Athra-Asis (18th c. BCE) / 11th tablet of the Epic of Gilgamesh (14th - 11th c. BCE) / Genesis 6-10

Scenes from: Felix E. Feist, Deluge (1933)
Movie and discussion: Chris Marker, La Jetée (1962) [28 min.]

January 16  Reading Quiz 1 (Verne)
CATASTROPHES & LOST WORLDS
Plato, Timaeus (5th c. BCE)
Jules Verne, Voyage au centre de la terre (1864)

Scenes from:
Henry Levin, Journey to the Center of the Earth (1959)
George Pal, Atlantis, the Lost Continent (1961)

January 23  RUINS AND ANTICIPATED RUINS
LAST MEN (1)
Jean-Baptiste Cousin de Grainville, Le Dernier Homme (1805)
Poems on the future ruins of London by J. Bounden (1824), E. Roche (1830), D.G. Rossetti (1856)
Poems on the future ruins of Paris by R. Bauchery (1830), C. Robert (1840), G. Nadaud (1876)

Scenes from: Will Forte, The Last Man on Earth (2015-2018) [season 1, episode 1]

January 30  Test 1 (+ Cousin de Grainville)
LAST MEN (2)
Book of Revelation (1st excerpt: Judgment Day)
Jean-Baptiste Cousin de Grainville, Le Dernier Homme (The Last Man) (1805)
Mary Shelley, The Last Man (1826), Richard Matheson, I Am Legend (1954)

Scenes from: Ubaldo Ragona & Sidney Salkow, The Last Man on Earth (1964)

February 6  CELESTIAL SIGNS & COMETS
Book of Revelation (2nd excerpt: Seven Seals, Seven Trumpets, Seven Bowls)
Camille Flammarion, La Fin du Monde (1893)

Scenes from: “Doctor V. Ivanoff”, The End of the World (1934)

February 13  Reading Quiz 2 (Flammarion)
DYING EARTHS
Camille Flammarion, La Fin du Monde (1893)
Lord Byron, « Darkness » (1816); William Hope Hodgson, The Night Land (1912)

February 20  Reading Week
February 27  
**TRANSLATIO IMPERII & “ALIEN” INVASIONS**

*Book of Revelation* (3rd excerpt: the dragon, the two beasts, the fall of Babylon, Gog & Magog)


Pseudo-Methodius, *Apocalypse* (7th c.)

J.-H. Rosny aîné, *Les Xipéhuz* (1887)


H.G. Wells, *The War of the Worlds* (1897)

Scenes from: *Abel Gance, La Fin du Monde* (1931)

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March 5  
**Test 2 (+ Rosny aîné)**

**THE APOCALYPSE AS REVOLUTION**

*Book of Revelation* (4th excerpt: the New Jerusalem)

J.-H. Rosny aîné, *La Mort de la Terre* (1910)


Karel Čapek, *R.U.R. Roosum’s Universal Robots* (1920)

Pierre Boule, *La Planète des singes* [*Planet of the Apes*] (1963)

Movie discussed: *Hugh Harman, Peace on Earth* (1939)

Scenes from:

*August Blom, Verdens Undergang* [*The End of the World*] (1916)

*Franklin J. Schaffner, Planet of the Apes* (1968)

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March 12  
**Reading Quiz 3 (Camus)**

**PLAGUES**

Jean de Venette, *Chronique* (1340-1368) / Giovanni Boccaccio, *Decameron* (14th c.)

*Albert Camus, La Peste* (1947) / Albert Camus, *Lettres à un ami allemand* (1945)

Albert Camus (& S. Gilbert, trans.), *The Plague*, Modern Library, 1948 [26 pages].


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March 19  
**Essay due**

**RESURRECTIONS OF THE DEAD / PROTO-ZOMBIES**

Hans Holbein *et al.*, *Les simulachres & historiees faces de la mort* (1538)

*Pieter Bruegel the Elder, Triumph van den Doot c.1562* – painting to examine beforehand


Movie scenes discussed:

*Abel Gance, J’accuse* (1919)

*Abel Gance, J’accuse* (1938)

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March 26  
**HAITIAN ZOMBIES (ALLEGORICAL ZOMBIES I)**

*W.B. Seabrook, The Magic Island* (1929)


*Dany Laferrière, Pays sans chapeau* (1996)

Dany Laferrière, *Down Among the Dead Men*, Vancouver / Toronto, Douglas & McIntyre, 1997 [23 pages].

Movie scenes discussed:

*Halperin brothers, White Zombie* (1932)

*Halperin brothers, Revolt of the Zombies* (1938)

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April 2  
**Test 3**

**HOLLYWOOD ZOMBIES (ALLEGORICAL ZOMBIES II)**

Scenes from:


This course is governed by the academic rules and regulations set forth in the University Calendar and the Senate. Dalhousie University is located in Mi’kma’ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi’kmaq.

As a student, you are required to abide by the policies and procedures to ensure academic integrity.

The Student Accessibility Centre is Dalhousie’s centre of expertise for student accessibility and accommodation. The advising team works with students on the Halifax campus who request accommodation as a result of a disability, religious obligation, or any barrier related to any other characteristic protected under Human Rights legislation. If there are aspects of this course that result in barriers to your inclusion please contact the Study Accessibility Centre.

Everyone at Dalhousie is expected to treat others with dignity and respect. The Code of Student Conduct allows Dalhousie to take disciplinary action if students don’t follow this community expectation. Read more here.

Dalhousie is committed to being a respectful and inclusive community where everyone feels welcome and supported, which is why our university prioritizes fostering a culture of diversity and inclusiveness.

Important Dates in the Academic Year (including add/drop dates).

- Dalhousie Grading Practices Policy
- Grade Appeal Process
- Sexualized Violence Policy
- Scent-Free Program

Learning and Support Resources

- General Academic Support – Advising
- Student Health & Wellness Centre
- On Track
- Indigenous Student Centre
- Elders-in-Residence (The Elders in Residence program provides students with access to First Nations elders for guidance, counsel and support. Visit the office in the Indigenous Student Centre or contact the program at elders@dal.ca or 902-494-6803.)
- Black Student Advising Centre
- International Centre
- South House Sexual and Gender Resource Centre
- LGBTQ2SIA+ Collaborative
- Library
- Copyright Office
- Dalhousie Student Advocacy Services
- Dalhousie Ombudsperson
- Human Rights and Equity Services
- Writing Centre
- Study Skills/Tutoring
- Faculty or Departmental Advising Support