

"A cold horror numbed my limbs, and icy fear
coursed through my veins"

Vergil, *The Aeneid* 3.34-35

CLA 341 / HIS 341

ANCIENT HORROR AND THE GROTESQUE

Dr. Moorman | Monday/Thursday, 10-11:15AM

What scares, shocks, and repulses us can say a lot about who we are as individuals and as a society. So, what scared, shocked, and repulsed the ancient Greeks and Romans? This course examines themes of horror and the grotesque in Greek and Roman literature, history, and culture, including cannibalism and gore, the supernatural, the monstrous feminine, atypical bodies and disability, otherness and foreignness, beauty and ugliness, and more. We will read a wide selection of Greek and Latin literature in translation, analyzing these ancient texts through modern theoretical lenses and in comparison with modern horror films. Class discussions will consider horror's cultural appeal in antiquity and today, asking what horror reveals about the way a society views itself and others.

Satisfies Diversity and Writing I Proficiency