PAAS 404: ASIAN HORROR CINEMA

Spring Term 2020

Instructor: Timothy Iles

Course description: PAAS 404 Asian Horror Cinema: How do film makers working in the genre of horror utilise their art to create critical social and historical interactions? What goals do they have, and how do they present their arguments through the specific features of horror? What threads hold works from Hong Kong, Korea, and Japan together? This course is an analysis of horror films to argue that horror emerges as a response to the breakdown of community bonds in the context of contemporary, urban development; the films we will analyse make intertwining arguments about urban space and its alienating effects on the contemporary world. This course is not for the faint of heart!

Proposed assignments: Assignments include a bibliography and term essay outline, midterm and term essays, and in-class examinations as well as discussions.

Proposed reading list: Course readings will include material on the social function of horror, urbanisation and its relationship to alienation, technologically mediated communication as a source of breakdown of traditional social relations, and other issues of obstruction in the human community.