

ENGL 2237

Spellbound: The Witch in Film & Literature

General Information

Instructor: Karen Budra kbudra@langara.ca (Office:)A201b 604-323-5694

Course Times: T 6:30-0:30

Credits: 3 (for information about transfer credit, visit bctransferguide.ca)

Course Description

- Hag, shape-shifter, seductress, rebel, witch. As Glinda assures Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz*, "You've always had the power, my dear. You just had to learn it for yourself." Accordingly, this course will examine the figure of the witch in literature and popular culture as a representation of female empowerment & creativity, alienation & subjugation. From Lilith to Thomasin, Circe to Samantha, witches have been a source of fascination for centuries. So let's have a closer look.

Course Texts

- **Required Reading**
 - *The Witches*, Roald Dahl
 - *The Crucible*, Arthur Miller
 - *Circe*, Madeline Miller
 - *The Mere Wife*, Maria Dahvana Headley
 - *White is for Witching*, Helen Oyeyemi
- various short stories involving witches by writers such as Nathaniel Hawthorne, HP Lovecraft, Kate Pullinger, Shirley Jackson & Daisy Johnson
- **Required Viewing**
 - *Haxan*, Benjamin Christensen, dir.
 - *The Wizard of Oz*, Victor Fleming, dir.
 - *The Seventh Seal*, Ingmar Bergman, dir.
 - *Rosemary's Baby*, Roman Polanski, dir.
 - *Suspiria*, Dario Argento, dir.

- *The Witch*, Robert Eggers, dir.
- *Relic*, Natalie James, dir.

- excerpts from tv series such as *Bewitched*, *Sabrina the Teenage Witch*, *American Horror Story ("Coven")*, *A Discovery of Witches*, *Penny Dreadful*, *The Addams Family*, *Game of Thrones*, and *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*

***course texts are subject to change before the semester begins**