

Days of the (Un)Dead:

Vampires, Zombies, and Other Forms of Chicano/a Horror in Film"



Thursday, November 5 6:30 PM Classroom Building 301



This talk examines the emergence of Chicano/a horror in film, arguing that folklore, cultural history, and a critical awareness that the economic and social conditions Chicano/as have suffered over generations are themselves the stuff of horror now projected onto the big screen in ways that combine the social significance of the horror genre in general with the cultural politics of Chicano/a studies in particular. Chicano/a horror in film, I argue, articulates a double-logic: it draws on the conventions of the horror flick to express and critique the haunting history of life and identity between the US and Mexico. We'll consider the cinematic significance of folk figures such as La Llorona and el chupacabra; the correlation between zombies and Mexican labor; and Robert Rodriguez's From Dusk Til Dawn vampire trilogy.



Dr. Jesse Alemán is Professor of English at the University of New Mexico. His scholarship and teaching cover two fields: nineteenth-century American literature and US Latino/a literary histories.

Besides nineteenth-century American and Chicano/a literatures, his other teaching interests include nineteenth-century American gothic; southwestern literature and film; and theories of the novel.

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