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It's all about the scary stuff in this UNM-LA class and movie series

Why are we so fascinated with monsters, ghosts and vampires? Folk tales are as stuffed with scary beings as modern movies, TV series and novels. Dr. Mickey Marsee will explore this intriguing question in the UNM-LA summer class *The Monster Within: Monsters and Vampires in Fiction and Movies*. The three credit class will meet Mondays from noon to 2 p.m. starting June 7 for 8 weeks. It will also be offered in the fall. Students may audit the course or take it for credit.

In conjunction with the class, a free scary film will be show each Thursday from 6:00-8:00 in the UNM-LA Lecture Hall inside the Student Center. You don't need to be enrolled in the class to attend the movie. The first film is "Nosferatu (1922) (not-rated) on June 10.

Scary stories balance our fear of what's out there in the night with the attraction of the "bad boy" figure who breaks all the rules, Marsee said.

"We'll explore what part of the monstrous is ingrained in our own humanity," said Marsee. "Where are the lines between the human and the monstrous?"

The monster is an outsider in our world, and since we often feel like outsiders ourselves, monsters can evoke empathy as well as fear, said Marsee.

Changes in science and technology have been generating monsters since Mary Shelly's "Frankenstein." Creatures from outer space, clones and robots function as the monsters in science fiction. The class will explore these modern demons as well as classic literary monsters like Frankenstein and Dracula.

"Modern monsters have their roots in the classics," said Marsee. "We will use a concept that fascinates students to dig into the classic monster texts."

Check the UNM-LA website at www.la.unm.edu and the Los Alamos Monitor for listings of the weekly movie. The public may also call 661-4691 for information about the movie of the week. Visit the UNM-LA website see the full summer schedule and for registration information. Call 662-0332 for help with registration. Classes begin June 7.

