Hybrid Forms Def: David Duff defines generic hybridization as “[t]he process by which two or more genres combine to form a new genre or subgenre; or by which elements of two or more genres are combined in a single work”

A hybrid genre or a cross-genre: is a genre in fiction that blends themes and elements from two or more different genres. As opposed to the (literary and political) conservatism of most genre fiction, cross-genre writing offers opportunities for opening up debates and stimulating discussion.

Such hybrid genres are not new but a longstanding element in the fictional process: perhaps the most famous example is William Blake’s Marriage of Heaven and Hell, with its blend of poetry, prose, and engravings. In contemporary literature Dimitris Lyacos’s trilogy Poena Damni combines fictional prose with drama and poetry in a multilayered narrative developing through the different characters of the work.

Examples of Hybrid forms:

Tragicomedy is a literary genre that blends aspects of both tragic and comic forms. Most often seen in dramatic literature, the term can variously describe either a tragic play which contains enough comic elements to lighten the overall mood or, often, a serious play with a happy ending.

Comedy horror, also referred to as horror comedy, is a literary and film genre that combines elements of comedy and horror fiction. Horror comedy has been described as able to be categorized under three types: “black comedy, parody and spoof.” The genre almost inevitably crosses over with the black comedy genre. Comedy horror will often use satire on horror clichés as its main source of humour or take a story in a different perspective, such as The Cabin in the Woods (2012 by Tim Lebbon, Joss Whedon, Drew Goddard) and Tucker & Dale vs. Evil (2010 by Eli Craig).
Author Bruce G. Hallenbeck cites the short story *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* by Washington Irving as “the first great comedy-horror story”. The story made readers “laugh one moment and scream the next”, and its premise was based on mischief typically found during the holiday Halloween.

**Some definitions:**

A **black comedy** (or **dark comedy**) is a comic work that employs **black humor**, which, in its most basic **definition**, is **humor** that makes light of otherwise serious subject matter. **Black humor** corresponds to the earlier concept of gallows **humor**. (**humor** about very unpleasant, serious, or painful circumstances. Any **humor** that treats serious matters, such as death, war, disease, and crime, in a light, silly or satirical fashion is considered **gallows humor**).

**Parody:** a literary (or musical) work in which the style of an author or work is closely imitated for comic effect or in ridicule. (**Spoof** is a synonym of parody)

**Other examples of hybrid forms include:**

- Action comedy (action and comedy)
- Comedy-drama or dramedy (comedy and drama)
- Comic fantasy (comedy and fantasy)
- Comic science fiction (comedy and science fiction)
- Crime fantasy (crime and fantasy)
- Dark fantasy (horror and fantasy)
- Romantic comedy (romance and comedy)
- Romantic fantasy (romance and fantasy)
- Science fantasy (science fiction and fantasy)
- Science fiction Western (science fiction and Western)
- Supernatural drama (supernatural and drama)
- Weird West (Western and horror, science fiction and/or speculative elements)

**Works Cited**