Menu

• Change in syllabus
• Sample exam questions (review)
• “Drink My Blood” (wrap-up)
• Anne Rice, *Interview with the Vampire*
• Neil Jordan, *Interview*, the film (clip)
Anne Rice (1941-)

- Born in New Orleans. Lives there now.
- The other books of the *Vampire Chronicles*:
  - *The Vampire Lestat* (1985)
  - *The Vampire Armand* (1998)
The French Connection

• France as an icon of refined European culture, sophistication, sensitivity, taste, etc.

• The French Revolution (1789; two years before the beginning of Rice’s narrative)
  – Demolishes a society ruled by self-proclaimed representatives of God and establishes one relying on human reason and sensibility
  – Inaugurates the Modern Age in Western culture (cf. Armand’s claim that Louis is a perfect representative of this age)
The “Cursed” Questions of the Modern Age

Q: What is the meaning of good and evil in a world without God?

A1: Man will understand that his well-being depends on his morality.

A2: If God is dead, nothing prevents man from taking His place, i.e. becoming superhuman, beyond good and evil (Friedrich Nietzsche)
Louis

- “Original sin”—failure to recognize the divine presence (his brother)—leads to a fall from grace
- Retains attachment to human existence instead of the prescribed de-tachment. For him vampirism is not a way of overcoming humanity, but of penetrating & appreciating it
- Split b/w internal (human) and external (vampiric) existence
- His search for origins is a search for meaning and identity (163)
Claudia

- Irresolvable contradiction between internal being and its external manifestations:
  
  Angel/Demon
  Child/Woman
  Daughter/Lover
Lestat

Mercantile cynic
↓
Creator keeping the secret of his creation
↓
Weak being threatened by solitude
↓
Vampire in despair
Armand and the Others

- Inversion of roles: the “flawed” Louis cast as a savior of the “perfect” Armand (286)
- The ironic fate of vampires revealed: their immortal lives must be “synchronized” w/ the “mortal,” historical time (283)
- After Paris, Louis moves away from humanity and closer to “true” vampirism (321, 337)
- The interview—an extended act of verbal seduction bringing to life Louis’s second child (?)