

VAMPIRE: BLOOD AND EMPIRE (Slavic 0880)

Fall 2009
TTH 4:00-5:15
CL G8
Office hours: Tues. 11:15-12:15,
Thurs. 12:15-1:15, and by appointment

Instructor: Joel Brady
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Course Description:

This course examines the phenomenon of vampirism in verbal and visual culture from different periods in various cultures (Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Rumania, Russia, Serbia, France, England, America). Why do vampires capture the imagination especially of Anglophone readers and viewers? What qualities does the vampire incarnate? Which historical events or customs have triggered particular enthusiasm for depicting the undead? How has the depiction of the vampire evolved over centuries? Our discussions will address these and related issues as we analyze stories, novels, films, legends, fairy tales, and historical studies, focusing on vampires from a variety of critical perspectives and contextualizing the works in the cultures that produced them.

Course Requirements:

Course requirements are as follows: (1) to complete the assignments scheduled for each class meeting (read a specified text) and be prepared to summarize and discuss them in class on the pertinent day; (2) to take the three scheduled exams, as well as the regular, unannounced quizzes administered throughout the semester.

Credits and attendance:

This course carries three credits and satisfies the CAS requirement in foreign culture. It

meets twice a week throughout the semester and combines lecture and discussion format. Your attendance and active participation are crucial. They will be recorded and included in your final grade.

Students are responsible for finding out FROM THEIR CLASSMATES whether important information or materials circulated during a session that they missed. Therefore students should exchange telephone numbers and E-mail addresses with their “class neighbors.”

I strongly encourage students experiencing problems in the course to make an appointment with me or (preferably) attend my office hours.

Website:

This course has a website at the Pitt Course Web at <http://courseweb.pitt.edu/>. I shall appreciate information from students about additional sites and visuals. Moreover, I encourage students to bring into class and share with the group any materials (music, visuals, etc.) connected with vampirism that may be of interest to all of us.

Grading:

Grades are based on the QUALITY of students’ performance in the following: (1) three exams–60%; (2) four best unannounced quizzes–40%; (3) attendance and consistently meaningful participation in class discussions – extra 5%.

The template below indicates how the number of points accumulated for all assignments throughout the semester, tabulated with the aid of a calculator, will be assessed:

A 93-100	A- 90-92	B+ 86-89	B 83-85	B- 80-82	C+ 76-79
C 73-75	C- 70-72	D+ 66-69	D 63-65	D- 60-62	F 59-0

****NO MAKE-UP QUIZZES WILL BE ADMINISTERED. IF A STUDENT MISSES A QUIZ OWING TO ABSENCE, S/HE WILL RECEIVE NO POINTS FOR THAT QUIZ. NO EXCEPTIONS. ON THE OTHER HAND, AS YOU KNOW, LOWEST QUIZ SCORES WILL BE DROPPED.**

NOTE:

Should unforeseeable circumstances, such as a fire alarm, interfere with Examination 1 and/or 2, they will be given **on the next day of lecture.**

Should unforeseeable circumstances, such as a fire alarm, interfere with Examination 3, it will be given **during the Final Examination Period at the time designated by the university.**

Academic Integrity:

By remaining enrolled in the course, students not only agree to abide by the above stipulations, but also understand that the instructor will follow with utmost rigor the rules spelled out in the *Handbook on Integrity* regarding cheating, plagiarism, etc. It is the students' responsibility to familiarize themselves with these regulations and to observe them. Any infraction will be penalized according to these rules. PLEASE NOTE THAT SIGNING THE ATTENDANCE SHEET FOR A CLASSMATE IS EASY TO DETECT, CONSTITUTES VIOLATION OF ACADEMIC INTEGRITY, AND WILL BE PENALIZED ACCORDINGLY.

Information about Reading:

- Indicates reading assignments to be completed outside of class **FOR the day indicated.**
- The designation (D) refers to the Norton Critical Edition of *Dracula*, which, apart from the text of Stoker's novel, contains critical essays (#3 below).
- (AR) references the collection of stories edited by Alan Ryan (#2 below)
- (CP) references materials available in the course packet.

Required Texts:

1. Raymond T. McNally & Radu Florescu. *In Search of Dracula. The History of Dracula and Vampires.* Boston/NY: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1992/1994
2. Alan Ryan, *The Penguin Book of Vampire Stories.* NY: Penguin Books, 1988
3. Nina Auerbach & David J. Skal, eds. *Dracula: Bram Stoker.* NY/London: W.W. Norton & Co., 1997
4. Course Packet texts, available for purchase in the book center

Schedule:

Topics for Tuesday, September 1

- Introduction, practical matters.
SIGNS OF THE VAMPIRE: accouterments, setting, activities, prophylactics: Blood/pallor, teeth, nails, crypt/coffin/cemetery, mountains/forests, night/darkness/shadows/moon, dreams, bat, metamorphosis (wolf). Prophylactics/elimination via cross, garlic, stake, silver bullet, etc. Alien/"exotic"/Other.

Assignment due Tuesday, September 1

- None
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Topics for Thursday, September 3

Significance and diversity of APPROACHES: historical, political, social, religious, psychological/sexual, medical, metaphorical, synthetic.

Assignment due Thursday, September 3

- “East European Vampires” (CP)
- “Animistic Vampire in New England” (CP)
- “The Nature of Horror” (CP)

THE ONLY ANNOUNCED QUIZ OF THE SEMESTER

Topics for Tuesday, September 8

- HISTORICAL basis: Vlad Tepes & Erszebet (Elisabeth) Bathory; viewing and discussion of *The Dark Prince* (2000)
Film trailer: *Bathory* (2008) – the most expensive Central European film of all times!!!

Assignment due Tuesday, September 8

McNally & Florescu: 15-42 + 117-32

Topics for Thursday, September 10

- HISTORICAL basis (continued)

Assignment due Thursday, September 10

- McNally & Florescu: 60-103 + Alan Ryan, “Following the Way” (AR 562-73)
-

Topics for Tuesday, September 15

- Gothic and (neo-)Romantic period: spirituality, search for ineffable, immortality through art, maximal individualism (polarization).

Assignment due Tuesday, September 15

- John Polidori, "The Vampyre" (1819) (AR=Alan Ryan collection 7-24)
- Chelsea Quinn Yarbro, “Cabin 33” (1980) (AR 451-504).

Topics for Thursday, September 17

- MODERN VAMPIRE: *Dracula*, on page and screen; *Great Books: Dracula* –VIDEO (50 mins.).

Assignment due Thursday, September 17

- McNally & Florescu 133-83
-

Topics for Tuesday, September 22

- Bram Stoker, *Dracula* (1897)

Assignment due Tuesday, September 22

- Bram Stoker, *Dracula* (1897) (D): 1-44
-

Topics for Thursday, September 24

- Bram Stoker, *Dracula* (1897)

Assignment due Thursday, September 24

- Bram Stoker, *Dracula* (1897) (D): 44-86
 - Stephen D. Arata, “The Occidental Tourist: *Dracula* and the Anxiety of Reverse Colonization” (D): 462-70
-

Topics for Tuesday, September 29

- Bram Stoker, *Dracula* (1897)

Assignment due Tuesday, September 29

- Bram Stoker, *Dracula* (1897) (D): 86-132
 - Carol A. Senf, “*Dracula*: The Unseen Face in the Mirror” (D): 421-431
-

Topics for Thursday, October 1

EXAM 1

Topics for Tuesday, October 6

- Bram Stoker, *Dracula* (1897)

Assignment due Tuesday, October 6

- Bram Stoker, *Dracula* (1897) (D): 133-184
 - Christopher Herbert, “Vampire Religion” (CP)
-

Topics for Thursday, October 8

- Bram Stoker, *Dracula* (1897)

Assignment due Thursday, October 8

- Kathleen L. Spencer, “Purity and Danger: Dracula, the Urban Gothic and the Late Victorian Degeneracy Crisis” (CP) – ONLY FIRST HALF
 - Bram Stoker, *Dracula* (1897) (D): 185-228
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Tuesday, October 13

NO CLASS—FALL BREAK (GO TO REGULAR MONDAY CLASSES)

Topics for Thursday, October 15

- Bram Stoker, *Dracula* (1897)

Assignment due Thursday, October 15

- Kathleen L. Spencer, “Purity and Danger: Dracula, the Urban Gothic and the Late Victorian Degeneracy Crisis” (CP) – SECOND HALF
- *Dracula* (D): 229-273

Topics for Tuesday, October 20

- Bram Stoker, *Dracula* (1897)

Assignment due Tuesday, October 20

- *Dracula* (D): 273-312
- Christopher Craft, ““Kiss Me with Those Red Lips”: Gender and Inversion in Bram

Topics for Thursday, October 22

- Bram Stoker, *Dracula* (1897)

Assignment due Thursday, October 22

- Stoker, *Dracula* (D): 312-327
 - Anne McWhir, "Pollution and Redemption in "Dracula"" (CP)
-

Topics for Tuesday, October 27

- F.W. Murnau, *Nosferatu: A Symphony of Horror* (1922), with Max Schreck. (viewing and class discussion)

Assignment due Tuesday, October 27

- James C. Franklin, *Metamorphosis of a Metaphor: The Shadow in Early German Cinema* (CP)
-

Topics for Thursday, October 29

- *Nosferatu* reconsidered: E. Elias Merhige, *Shadow of the Vampire* (92 minutes, viewing)

Assignment due Thursday, October 29

- Who is your vampiric ideal? Come to class prepared to discuss your choice of an actor/actress for a new film featuring vampires. John Malkovich? Britney Spears? Carrot Top? Why?
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Topics for Tuesday, November 3

- *Nosferatu* reconsidered: E. Elias Merhige, *Shadow of the Vampire* (continued, viewing and class discussion)

Assignment due Tuesday, November 3

- None
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Thursday, November 5

EXAM 2

Topics for Tuesday, November 10

- Female vampirism, *femmes fatales*

Assignment due Tuesday, November 10

- N.V Gogol, “Viy” (1835) (CP)
C.L. Moore, “Shambleau” (1933) (AR 255-81)
E. A. Poe, “Ligeia” (1838) (CP)
-

Topics for Thursday, November 12

- Lesbian vampirism (mostly) for male consumption: J. Sheridan Le Fanu, “Carmilla” (1871-72) + film clip: Roy Ward Baker, *The Vampire Lovers* (1970/1)

Assignment due Thursday, November 12

- J. Sheridan Le Fanu, “Carmilla” (1871-72) (AR 71-137)
-

Topics for Tuesday, November 17

- The Age of Anxiety: Vampire’s Postmodern Revival and the AIDS epidemic; Tony Scott, *Hunger* (1983; 94) viewing in class

Assignment due Tuesday, November 17

- Review “The Nature of Horror” (CP)
-

Topics for Thursday, November 19

- The Age of Anxiety: Vampire’s Postmodern Revival and the AIDS epidemic; Tony Scott, *Hunger* (1983; 94) viewing and discussion

Assignment due Thursday, November 19: None

Topics for Tuesday, November 24

- Vampire's Postmodern Revival, Aestheticism, Homosexuality and Polymorphous Sexuality; Neil Jordan, *Interview with the Vampire* (1994) (122 minutes) - viewing

Assignment due Tuesday, November 24

- Candace R. Benefiel, "Blood Relations: The Gothic Perversion of the Nuclear Family in Anne Rice's *Interview with the Vampire*" (CP)
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NOVEMBER 25-29 NO CLASSES -- THANKSGIVING BREAK

Topics for Tuesday, December 1

- Vampire's Postmodern Revival, Aestheticism and Homosexuality; Neil Jordan, *Interview with the Vampire* (1994) (122 minutes) – viewing
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Topics for Thursday, December 3

- Vampire's Postmodern Revival, Aestheticism and Homosexuality; Neil Jordan, *Interview with the Vampire* (1994) (122 minutes) – discussion
- Vampires in our graveyards: was folklore right to begin with?

Assignment due Thursday, December 3

- Paul Barber, "Forensic Pathology and the European Vampire" (CP)
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Topics for Tuesday, December 8

- "Twampires": The Mass Appeal of Vampire Fiction for Tweenage Audiences, *Twilight* (2008) (12 minutes) – viewing
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Thursday, December 10**EXAM 3**