

Vampire: Blood and Empire

University of Pittsburgh
 Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures
 Spring 2018 - SLAV 0880-1020 - CRN 28232



Day and Time:	Mondays, 6:00 – 8:30pm
Room	CL 139
Instructor:	Dr. Marc Wisnosky
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Office:	1228 Cathedral of Learning
Office hours:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mondays, 5-6pm • Tuesdays, 3-4pm • and by appointment



Course Description

This course examines the phenomenon of vampirism in verbal and visual culture from different periods in various cultures (Eastern Europe, Western Europe, 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 do historical contexts shape vampire narratives? 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 Objectives

By the end of the course, you should be able to:

- Identify the nature and function of the vampiric figure in what we loosely consider “traditional” cultures.
- Analyze the ways in which the “Western gaze” influenced perceptions of the vampire beyond its traditional roots.
- Explain how traditional and Western representations of the vampire changed as they were incorporated into popular culture.
- Analyze vampiric legends and “texts”—including literature, art, film, television, and other media—by applying various theoretical perspectives (e.g., post-colonialism, psychoanalysis, critical race theory).
- Analyze vampire legends and vampiric texts and figures in terms of sexuality, race, and religion.

Readings

Some readings are drawn from the required reading materials, while others may be found online in PDF or in links provided to you. Any readings not contained in the required texts will be posted on CourseWeb. You should procure copies of the following texts, which are available in the University Store. Please note that, while you may purchase these texts from a different vendor, YOU MUST PURCHASE THE VERSION SPECIFIED. We will consistently refer to specific page numbers in our in-class discussions, and if you cannot do this, you will compromise the efficiency of those conversations. Note also that some of the assigned articles will be taken from the appendices of the specified version of the *Dracula* text, and other editions of *Dracula* are likely not to contain these required articles:

- Raymond McNally and Radu Florescu: *In Search of Dracula*, ISBN: 0395657830
- Bram Stoker and Nina Auerbach: *Dracula (Norton Critical Edition)* ISBN: 0393970124
- Anne Rice: *Interview with the Vampire*, ISBN: 0345337662
- Alan Ryan: *The Penguin Book of Vampire Stories*, ISBN: 0140124454

We will also watch several films in class. If you miss a class, you are responsible for watching the film. Most of the films are part of the media collection in the Stark Media Services center in the Hillman Library. A number are also available online (free or for purchase) and via Netflix, Amazon, and other streaming services.

Course Requirements and Grading

******A Note on Workload and Course Content******

Yes, this is a class about vampires, not rocket science, but if past student evaluations are any indicator, this class will *not* be easy for you. You can expect a work load and intellectual challenge comparable to any other of your other courses at this level which don't have "vampire" in the title.

Vampires are generally violent, often promiscuous, and occasionally sexually indiscriminate creatures. Plus they're dead, sort of. Please be advised that the course contains readings, literature, and films with explicit references to/scenes of sex, violence, and death. If this will be problematic for you, you may wish to consider taking another course. If, however, during the semester you find that you are having any difficulties with the material—emotionally, or otherwise—which would hinder your ability to complete the course expectations, I encourage you to have a conversation with me about it.

Students are required to:

- Complete the assignments scheduled (readings, films, quizzes)
- Participate actively in discussions
- Demonstrate mastery of course skill areas in three scheduled exams

This course fulfills the Foreign Culture/International REG General Education Requirement

Your grade in this class will be made up of the following:

Reading Quizzes 10%

2 Exams 90% (equally weighted @ 45%)

Weekly Reading Quizzes (10%)

Regular, brief reading quizzes will be administered online—5 minutes each, consisting of around 3-5 multiple-choice, factual questions. The purpose of these quizzes is simply to encourage you to keep up with the readings—the questions are *not* reflective of the type or difficulty of questions you will encounter on exams. You must complete these quizzes before class (4:30 pm) on the day of the class for which readings are due. Quizzes are time-stamped by CourseWeb. You are welcome to study readings together with classmates, but you may NOT consult with them on the quizzes themselves, or share answers. Each quiz is, on its own, relatively low-stakes and—I would suggest—not worth compromising your integrity. If you complete the readings, you should have no problem answering these factual (non-interpretive) questions. No make-up quizzes will be permitted: if you anticipate a problem completing the quiz, you should complete the readings and take the quiz well in advance of the deadline. *Your two lowest reading quiz scores will be dropped.*

Exams (2 @ 45% = 90% total)

These exams will be entirely multiple choice, and administered in class. The test questions will ask you to demonstrate the modes of analysis you have been practicing during the term. Therefore, if you have been an active participant in the course, you should not find any surprises on the exam. The exams are non-cumulative. However, insofar as we reference any materials/concepts from an earlier part of the course in the current unit, such materials/concepts would be fair game for the current unit's exam.

Exams will be held:

- Exam 1: Monday, February 26, 6pm
- Exam 2: Monday, April 23, 6pm

Technology

This course makes use of a CourseWeb site, which you must be able to navigate. Your weekly quizzes and many of the required readings will be found on CourseWeb. I urge you to consult the more specific technology requirements posted on CourseWeb. If you experience technical difficulties, first try another browser and then contact the Help Desk (624-HELP). If the Help Desk is unable to answer your question, you may then contact me via e-mail.

Email Policy

I will use your University email address for any course communication. You are expected to read email sent to this account on a regular basis. Failure to read and react to University communications in a timely manner does not absolve you from knowing and complying with the content of the communications. The University provides an email forwarding service that allows students to read their email via other service providers (e.g., Hotmail, AOL, Yahoo). Students that choose to forward their email from their pitt.edu address to another address do so at their own risk. If email is lost as a result of forwarding, it does not absolve the student from responding to official communications sent to their University email address. Therefore, please check your Pitt email regularly; "I didn't get it," or "It must have been lost" are not acceptable excuses for missing pertinent information. I will communicate with you primarily via

CourseWeb announcements, which I will also e-mail to your Pitt account. I will also respond to individual concerns and questions through email, **within 48 hours** during the week, and **by Monday afternoon** if the e-mail is sent on the weekend. In other words, if you have a question about a reading or an exam, you should ask it earlier, rather than later.

Academic Integrity

Students in this course will be expected to comply with the [University of Pittsburgh's Policy on Academic Integrity](#). Any student suspected of violating this obligation for any reason during the semester will be required to participate in the procedural process, initiated at the instructor level, as outlined in the University Guidelines on Academic Integrity. This may include, but is not limited to, the confiscation of the examination of any individual suspected of violating University Policy. Furthermore, no student may bring any unauthorized materials to an exam, including dictionaries and programmable calculators.

If you are caught cheating or plagiarizing in this course on any assignment or exam, **YOU WILL FAIL THE COURSE: NO EXCEPTIONS.**

Disability Services

If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and [Disability Resources and Services](#) (DRS), 140 William Pitt Union, (412) 648-7890, drsrecep@pitt.edu, (412) 228-5347 for P3 ASL users, as early as possible in the term. DRS will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for this course.

Accessibility

Blackboard is ADA Compliant and has fully implemented the final accessibility standards for electronic and information technology covered by Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1998. Please note that, due to the flexibility provided in this product, it is possible for some material to inadvertently fall outside of these guidelines.

Copyright Notice

These materials may be protected by copyright. United States copyright law, 17 USC section 101, et seq., in addition to University policy and procedures, prohibit unauthorized duplication or retransmission of course materials. See [Library of Congress Copyright Office](#) and the [University Copyright Policy](#).

Statement on Classroom Recording

To ensure the free and open discussion of ideas, students may not record classroom lectures, discussion and/or activities without the advance written permission of the instructor, and any such recording properly approved in advance can be used solely for the student's own private use.

Schedule of Readings for SLAV 0880-1020 (28232), Monday, 6-8:30pm

EasKey to readings:

CW =	CourseWeb
ebook =	E-book available through PittCat
McNally & Florescu =	Raymond McNally and Radu Florescu: <i>In Search of Dracula</i>
Rice =	Anne Rice: <i>Interview with the Vampire</i>
Ryan =	Alan Ryan: <i>The Penguin Book of Vampire Stories</i>
Stoker =	Bram Stoker and Nina Auerbach: <i>Dracula (Norton Critical Edition)</i>

Date	Topics	Readings Due
Week 1 1/8	Introduction to course And The Folkloric Revenant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Peter Plogojowitz” and “Visum et Repertum” (CW) • “The Shepherd from Blov” (CW) • Tournefort, <i>A Voyage into the Levant</i> (1717), pp. 103-107 (CW) • We’ll read these in class
Week 2 1/15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NO CLASS – DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR DAY 	
Week 3 1/22	Old Vampire Accounts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oinas, “East European Vampires,” pp. 111-120 (CW) • Stetson, “Animistic Vampire in New England” (1896), pp. 1-13 (CW) • John Polidori, “The Vampyre”: pp. 1-2, 7-24 (Ryan)
Week 4 1/29	Anthropological and Psychological Perspectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dundes, Preface: pp. vii-viii • Barber, “Forensic Pathology and the European Vampire” in Dundes: pp. 109-133 (ebook) • Dundes, “Psychoanalytic Post Mortem,” in Dundes: pp. 159-171 (ebook)
Week 5 2/5	To Serbia and the East Mario Bava, “I Wurdulak,” from <i>Black Sabbath</i> (1963) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Viewing and Discussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tolstoy, “The Family of the Vourdulak” • Glisic, “After Ninety Years” (1880) (CW)
Week 6 2/12	The Byronic Hero Bring to class: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planche, <i>The Vampire: A Tragedy in 3 Acts</i> (1820) – excerpts (CW) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rymer, <i>Varney the Vampire</i> (excerpts): pp. 26-35 (Ryan)

Week 7 2/19	Carmilla Exam Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Le Fanu, "Carmilla": pp. 71-137 (Ryan)
Week 8 2/26	Exam 1 , 6-6:50pm [10 minute break] The Historical Dracula , 7-8:30pm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Dracula: The True Story</i> Viewing and Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> McNally & Florescu: pp. 1-6, 8-10, 15-61 (skim), 78-93 (skim), 126-130, 133-155, 189, 193-219 (skim) Stoker, <i>Dracula</i>: pp. 33-35
3-4 - 3/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SPRING BREAK – NO CLASSES 	
Week 9 3/12	Bram Stoker’s <i>Dracula</i> (1897): Introduction and Demi-orientalism, Reverse Colonization, and Racial Othering <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coppola, <i>Bram Stoker’s Dracula</i> (1992) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stoker, <i>Dracula</i>: pp. 1-86 Arata, "The Occidental Tourist" (in Stoker, <i>Dracula</i>): pp. 462-70
Week 10 3/19	Bram Stoker’s <i>Dracula</i> (1897): Unreliable Narrators and the Battle of Good and Evil <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Browning, <i>Dracula</i> (1931) Viewing and Discussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stoker, <i>Dracula</i>: pp. 86-162 Senf, "Dracula: The Unseen Face in the Mirror" (in Stoker, <i>Dracula</i>): pp. 421-431 Roth, "Suddenly Sexual Women" (in Stoker, <i>Dracula</i>): pp. 411-421
Week 11 3/26	Hammer films and Badham’s <i>Dracula: From Horrific to Sexy</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fisher, <i>Horror of Dracula</i> (1958) Badham, <i>Dracula</i> (1979) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stoker, <i>Dracula</i>: pp. 162–235; 322-327, (Optional, pp. 235–273 Carroll, "The Nature of Horror" (CW)
Week 12 4/2	Race, Black Vampires, and Blaxploitation , 7-8:30pm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crane, <i>Blacula</i> (1972) Viewing and Discussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lawrence, "Fear of a Blaxploitation Monster: Blackness as Generic Revision in AIP’s <i>Blacula</i>," pp. 14-24 (CW) Hefner, "Rethinking <i>Blacula</i>," pp. 62-70 (You do not need to read past p.70) (CW)
Week 13 4/9	The Moral Vampire <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Neil Jordan, <i>Interview with the Vampire</i> (1994) Viewing and Discussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anne Rice, <i>Interview with the Vampire</i>, pp. 11-35; 64-116; 168-198 Candace R. Benefiel, "Blood Relations: The Gothic Perversion of the Nuclear Family in Anne Rice’s <i>Interview with the Vampire</i>," pp. 261-270 (CW)

Week 14 4/16	AIDS and Family in the 1980s <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Schumacher, <i>The Lost Boys</i> (1987)• Viewing and Discussion Exam Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nicola Nixon, "When Hollywood Sucks," in <i>Blood Read: The Vampire as Metaphor in Contemporary Culture</i> (CW)• Tyree, "Warm-Blooded: True Blood and Let the Right One," pp. 31-37 (CW)• Tenga & Zimmerman, "Gentlemen Vampires and Zombie Beasts"
4/23	Final Exam	In class, Monday, 6pm