**Objectives**
This course examines the phenomenon of vampirism in verbal and visual culture from different periods in various cultures (Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Romania, 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 Goals**
By the end of the course, you should be able to:
  * Discuss the nature and function of the vampiric figure in what we loosely consider "traditional" cultures, and how these have changed as they have been incorporated into popular culture.
  * Analyze vampiric texts along the broad lines of theoretical perspectives, e.g. psychoanalysis.
  * Analyze the vampiric texts and figures in terms of gender and sexuality in society.

**Form of the Course**
This is an online hybrid course. This means that the bulk of the course will be conducted online. Here you will find course materials, communicate with your instructor and your classmates, and find information on and submit all tasks and assignments. You should access the course website frequently and check your messages at least once per day. In addition, we will meet face to face on three Saturday afternoons over the course of the semester. The Saturday meetings will be on September 15, October 20 and November 17 from 9:30am-12:30pm in Cathedral of Learning 227 in September and October and 229 in November. **The September and October dates are mandatory.** We will use this time to screen films and film clips, and we will discuss them in the context of the readings we have been doing for the course. For the November date you will have the option to watch the film on your own time. If you cannot come to the Saturday sessions, and/or will not have regular access to the internet, you should rethink taking this class.

**Attendance**
Since this is predominately an online course, you are free to study at the place and time of day of your choice (with the exception of the Saturday sessions). However, you have to complete your

readings in time to participate in the online discussion, and your discussion grade will depend on the thoroughness of your participation on the discussion boards.  This means that you need to log into the course website every day, or at least once every two days.  Needless to say, the best way to succeed in the course is to keep up with the reading to ensure that you are posting thoughtful comments and questions during the week for which the reading is assigned.

**Workload**
This is not an easy class.  I will give you as much help as I can, both in introducing the material, moderating discussion, and answering questions, but I expect this course to challenge you.  You should plan on an average of at least twelve hours a week for study and activity work, but some of you may spend considerably more time than that, particularly if you are seduced into extensive participation in the discussion (which is likely to result in a higher grade at the end of the term).

**Technology and Skills**
I expect you to have at least basic computer skills, such as the ability to use a mouse and keyboard, use word-processing software, use an internet browser, etc.  You must also have access to an internet connection and browser.

**Email Policy**
Each student is issued a University email address (username@pitt.edu) upon admittance.  This email address may be used by the University (and me) for official communication with students.  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.  Please manage your email quota to ensure that you continue to receive important messages.

**Course Website**
This course was developed using a web course tool called Blackboard.  All course materials, tasks, assignments, exams, etc. (except for the required books) will be online.  You will use your main Pitt account to log in to the course at CourseWeb (http://courseweb.pitt.edu).  This course site will be available to you from the first day of the term.

If you haven't used Blackboard before, in order to get started with a Blackboard course, please see the Blackboard Student Manual at http://library.blackboard.com/ref/ac6a8266-81c9-423f-a187-6cf4f7a505b7/index.htm.  If you need further help, the Pitt Technology Help Desk Team provides technical support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.  They can be reached at 412-624-HELP, helpdesk@pitt.edu, or http://technology.pitt.edu/Help.aspx.

**Interaction with the Instructor**

I will communicate with you primarily through the discussion boards and through email. I will monitor the discussion boards all week, asking follow-up questions and responding to student posts as necessary. I will also respond to individual concerns and questions through email; my address is era17@pitt.edu. Unless something unusual arises, I will check the discussion boards and my email at least once a day on weekdays, usually during typical working hours. Late night or weekend emails will likely have a longer wait time for a response.

## Course Requirements and Grading
Students are required to:
- Complete the assignments scheduled (readings, films, quizzes, discussions)
- Participate actively and intelligently in discussions
- Take two scheduled exams

Your grade in this class will be made up of the following:
- Reading Quizzes = 45%
- Reflective Questions = 20%
- Class Discussions = 10%
- Exams = 25% (equally weighted)

I expect you to have a good command of the English language and be able to express yourselves clearly. Although typos are an unavoidable part of life, I expect you to proofread and spell-check your posts and all other assignments **before** you submit them.

## Disability Policy
If you have a disability that requires special testing accommodations or other classroom modifications, please notify both me and Disability Resources and Services by the second week of the term. They will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for this course. To notify Disability Resources and Services, call 412-648-7890 (voice or TDD) to schedule an appointment. The Internet address is http://www.pitt.edu/˜osaweb/drs/drs.html and the office is located in the William Pitt Union, Room 216.

## Academic Integrity
I expect every student to rigorously follow the guidelines laid out in Pitt's *Handbook on Integrity* regarding cheating, plagiarism, etc. Please take the time to visit the University's Academic Integrity Policies (http://www.as.pitt.edu/faculty/policy/integrity.html) and Procedures (http://www.bc.pitt.edu/policies/policy/02/02-03-02.html) regarding cheating, plagiarism, etc. I will also provide additional information about plagiarism on Blackboard. I take an extremely dim view on academic integrity violations, and violators will be penalized to the full extent possible. If plagiarism occurs, I will proceed under the assumption that you have read these websites and committed a violation in spite of it.

## Readings
Some readings will come out of the required reading materials, but some will be found online at links provided to you. Your reading assignments for each unit will be posted on CourseWeb. You should procure copies of:

Raymond McNally and RaduFlorescu: *In Search of Dracula,* ISBN: 0395657830
Nina Auerbach and David Skal: *Dracula: Bram Stoker,* ISBN: 0393970124
Anne Rice: *Interview with the Vampire,* ISBN: 0345337662
Alan Ryan: *The Penguin Book of Vampire Stories,* ISBN: 0140124454

You will also need to watch the following films over the course of the semester:
*The Dark Prince*
*Nosferatu* (1922)
*Dracula* (1931)
*Nosferatu* (1979)
*Dracula* (1979)
*Bram Stoker's Dracula*
*Interview with the Vampire*
*Shadow of the Vampire*

Most of the films are part of the media collection in the Stark Media Services center in the Hillman Library. You are responsible for viewing the appropriate film during the appropriate time. You also have the option to watch the films on Netflix if they are available there or purchase your own personal copy to watch.

**Assignment Schedule**
All assignments are to be completed and submitted by midnight on the due date listed.

Introductions
Unit 1  **(due September 2)**
Unit 2.1**(due September 9)**
Unit 2.2**(due September 16)**
Unit 3  **(due September 23)**
Unit 4.1**(due September 30)**
Unit 4.2**(due October 7)**
Unit 4.3**(due October 14)**
Unit 5  **(due October 21)**
Unit 6  **(due October 28)**
Exam 1**(due November 4)**
Unit 7  **(due November 11)**
Unit 8.1**(due November 18)**
Unit 8.2 **(due November 25)**
Unit 9  **(due December 2)**
Unit 10 **(due December 9)**
Final Exam **(due SATURDAY December 15)**