

Vampire: Blood and Empire

University of Pittsburgh
 Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures
 Fall 2019 - SLAV 0880-7710 - CRN 23471



Day and Time:	Online, and in person: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saturday, October 5, 1:00 – 4:00pm • Saturday, November 2, 1:00 – 4:00pm • Saturday, December 7, 1:00 – 4:00pm
Room	WWPH 5200
Instructor:	Dr. Marc Wisnosky
Email:	mwisnosky@pitt.edu
Office:	1228 Cathedral of Learning
Office hours:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 a few films in this course. You are responsible for watching the films as part of your coursework. 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 two 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	15%
Discussion Board	30%
In-Class Participation	15%
2 Exams	40% (equally weighted)

Weekly Reading Quizzes (15%)

Regular, brief reading quizzes will be administered online, consisting of several multiple-choice, factual questions. The purpose of these quizzes is simply to encourage you to keep up with the readings. **You must complete these quizzes by midnight Tuesdays.** 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. You will drop your two lowest reading quiz scores.

Discussion Board (30%)

Participation on the discussion boards is a large component of the course. To earn full credit for the week, you must make at least **FOUR (4)** different posts per week.

For each weekly forum, think about the reading and/or viewing assignments and compose **TWO (2) 80-100 word responses** to share with the class. Your responses should each **address one or more of the discussion questions** each week (see below). Make sure to answer different types of questions over the course of the semester, or you may lose points (if you answer the same question more than twice in a row, I will lower your participation score for that week by a letter grade). Please reply to my initial post when writing your contribution. **Do not create new threads.**

You must also **respond to at least TWO (2) posts made by other students** (aim for your responses to be about **40-80 words**).

In order to give students time to respond to your posts, you should post your first comment by **11:59 PM on Wednesday** and your second by **11:59 PM on Thursday**. You have until **11:59 PM on Saturday** to respond to each other's posts.

I will check on your posts throughout the week, responding selectively to direct or correct the discussion as need be. At the end of every week I will post a response to the discussion as a whole.

Please make sure you carefully review and edit your comments PRIOR to posting on the discussion board. Your writings will be the vehicle in which you interact with and present yourself to other students, so you want your writings to be clear, respectful and free of error. I strongly suggest you write your comments **FIRST** in a word processing program that allows you to spell check, edit, and save your comments. **SECOND**, you should copy and post your comments to the discussion board. This also helps in the event that your computer breaks down, or you accidentally delete your comments and you have to start over from scratch.

We will be considering the following discussion questions continuously over the course of the semester, while others will be specific to a particular week's material.

Discussion Board Grading:

I will grade your forum contributions using a check plus/check/check minus system. If you wrote two original posts and two response posts, then you'll receive a 4 out of 4 for that week (100%). If you write or respond more than the 4 required times, you'll get a bonus of 1 extra point, for a total of 5/4 (these bonus points can add up!).

While you are only required to make four posts a week, it is important to remember that the more active and engaged you are in these discussions, the more you will get out of this class.

*** Note on Discussion Board Etiquette:** Please show respect for your fellow students in all course communications. Offensive or disrespectful comments will be removed from Discussion Board and earn you no credit.

In-class Participation (15%)

There are three scheduled in-class sessions:

- October 5
- November 2
- December 7

Each of the in-class sessions will include discussion of readings and viewing of films, as well as overview of the material covered online. Generally, as long as you attend the in-class session, you will find it easy to satisfy this requirement by actively participating in the activities. As a reminder, the in-class sessions are mandatory.

Exams (2 @ 20% = 40% total)

The two exams will be entirely multiple choice, and administered online through CourseWeb. 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.

Exam 1 (Take online between October 6 – October 12)

Exam 2 (Take online between December 7 – December 12)

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 0880-7710 (23471) Hybrid Class

Key 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
Unit 1 Due 8/31	The Folkloric Revenant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oinas, "East European Vampires" (111-120) (CW) Stetson, "Animistic Vampire in New England," (1896), 1-13 (CW) Gerard, "Transylvanian Superstitions," (331 – 335) in Stoker, <i>Dracula</i> (1897)
Unit 2 Due 9/7	Churchmen and Scientists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "The Shepherd from Blov" (CW) Tournefort, <i>A Voyage into the Levant</i> (1717), 103-107 (CW) "Peter Plogojowitz" and "Visum et Repertum" in Barber, <i>Vampires, Burial, and Death</i>, 5-9; 15 – 20. (CW)
Unit 3 Due 9/14	To Serbia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mario Bava, "I Wurdulak," from <i>Black Sabbath</i> (1963). Viewing and Discussion Link to film and viewing questions are on CourseWeb page for this week 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Glisic, "After Ninety Years" (1880) (CW) Tolstoy, "The Family of the Vourdulak" (CW)
Unit 4 Due 9/21	Anthropological and Psychological Perspectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dundes, "Preface," pp. vi-vii Barber, "Forensic Pathology and the European Vampire" in Dundes, (109 – 133). (CW) Dundes, "Psychoanalytic Post Mortem," (159 – 171) (CW)
Unit 5 Due 9/28	The Traveling Vampire: Going West, Going Goth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> McNally & Florescu (141-144) Ossenfelder, "Der Vampire" (CW) Goethe, "Bride of Corinth" (CW) John Polidori, "The Vampyre," pp. 1-2, 7-24 (Ryan)

Unit 6 Due 10/5	The Byronic Figure and Carmilla	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alfred Lord Byron, “The Giaour” (CW) • Pushkin, “The Bridegroom” (CW) • Rymer, <i>Varney the Vampire</i> (excerpts) • Le Fanu, “Carmilla” (Ryan) •
10/5	In-Class Meeting WWPH 5200, 1-4pm Exam review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planche, <i>The Vampire: A Tragedy in 3 Acts</i> (1820) – excerpts (CW) • Bring to class – we’ll read it together as a “play”
10/6 – 10/12	Exam 1 – Through CourseWeb	
Unit 7.1 Due 10/12	The Historical Dracula Vlad Dracula of Wallachia	<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
Unit 7.2 Due 10/19	Bram Stoker’s <i>Dracula</i> (1897): Introduction and Demi-orientalism, Reverse Colonization, and Racial Othering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Dracula</i> (1897) (D): 1-86 • Arata, “The Occidental Tourist” (D) 462-70 • Watch <i>Dracula</i> (1931) • Viewing Guide questions due 3/9
Unit 7.3 Due 10/26	Bram Stoker’s <i>Dracula</i> (1897): Unreliable Narrators and the Battle of Good and Evil Religion and Superstition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Dracula</i> (1897): 86-162 • Senf, “Dracula: The Unseen Face in the Mirror” (D): 421-431
Unit 7.4 Due 11/2	Bram Stoker’s <i>Dracula</i> (1897): (Un)Repressed Female sexuality and “The New Woman”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Dracula</i> (1897) (D): 162-235. (Optional: 235 – 273) • Roth, “Suddenly Sexual Women” (D) 411-421”
11/2	In-Class Meeting WWPH 5200, 1-4pm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Horror of Dracula</i> (1958) • Badham, <i>Dracula</i> (1979) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • McNally & Florescu: 156-178 • Carroll, “Art Horror.” (CW)

<p>Unit 8 Due 11/9</p>	<p>The 1970s: “Vampirefly” Race, Black Vampires, and Blaxploitation Watch: William Crane, <i>Blacula</i> (1972)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lawrence, “Fear of a Blaxploitation Monster: Blackness as Generic Revision in AIP’s <i>Blacula</i>.” (14-24). (CW) • Hefner, “Rethinking <i>Blacula</i>,” (2012): 62-70. (You do not need to read past p. 70). (CW)
<p>Unit 9 Due 11/16</p>	<p>The Moral Vampire</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anne Rice, <i>Interview with the Vampire</i> (1976): 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>” (CP) (261-270)
<p>Unit 10 Due 11/24</p>	<p>AIDS and Family in the 1980s Watch: Joel Schumacher, <i>Lost Boys</i> (1987)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nicola Nixon, “When Hollywood Sucks,” in <i>Blood Read: The Vampire as Metaphor in Contemporary Culture</i>. University of Pennsylvania Press
<p>11/24 – 12/1</p>	<p>Thanksgiving Break</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Class
<p>Unit 11 Due 12/7</p>	<p>Let the Right Twi-Hards In, and For God’s sake, give them some True Blood: Vampires in the 2000s</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tyree, “Warm-Blooded: True Blood and Let the Right One.” (31-37). • Watch “Buffy and Edward: Twilight Remixed” (and read the brief info) at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RZwM3GvaTRM
<p>12/7</p>	<p>In-Class Meeting WWPH 5200, 1-4pm</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exam Review
<p>12/7 – 12/12</p>	<p>Exam 2 – Through CourseWeb</p>	