

The University of Toronto
OUR VAMPIRES, OURSELVES
CCR 199Y / 2015-16

Instructor: **EROL M BORAN** Dept: German
Office: Odette Hall #309 Email: erol.boran@utoronto.ca
Hours: Fall: M 2-4 / Spring: M 10-12 Tel.: 416-926-2317

Class meets on **Tue 2-4 at t.b.a.**



Outline: The vampire is one of the most fascinating figures of popular culture. Since Stoker's *Dracula* – in fact well before that – vampires have been haunting the human imagination in various shapes and forms. This course examines the figure of the vampire as a potent cultural metaphor showing how every age embraces the vampires it needs and gets the vampires it deserves. The goal is to teach students to reflect critically and independently on issues of self and society and to develop a structured approach to critical thinking in general.

Requirements: thorough preparation, attendance and active participation. To do well in this course, it is not enough to like vampires, to have heard of Stoker and to have watched *True Blood!* Students are expected to read all texts, watch all films and to complete all assignments in a timely fashion. (Late works are accepted only in exceptional cases.) Students have to be in class on time, with prepared texts and completed assignments in hand, ready to embark on lively discussions. Over the year, the course will progress from instructor-led to student-led sessions.

Evaluation: 20% Active Participation (preparation, attendance & involvement) / 24% Reflections (bi-weekly postings on readings, viewings & presentations; 300 words each) / 24% Tests (on Stoker, Süskind & Butler; in-class; 30 mins each) / 22% Partner Presentation (outline, handout, visual presentation) / 10% Class Progression Essay

Texts: Shorter texts will be provided, but three novels need to be purchased in book-form. Students are required to come to class with prepared texts in hand! → Bram Stoker: *Dracula* (1897; ISBN: 0393970124) / Patrick Süskind: *The Perfume* (1981; ISBN: 0375725849) / Octavia Butler: *Fledgling* (2005; ISBN: 0375725849)

Films: Some clips will be viewed in class, but following films need to be watched in full outside of class (*Nosferatu* is available on YouTube; the others need to be checked out / purchased. → Friedrich Murnau: *Nosferatu* (1922) / Francis Ford Coppola: *Bram Stoker's Dracula* (1992) / Neil Jordan: *Interview with the Vampire* (1994) / Tom Tykwer: *Perfume. The Story of a Murderer* (2006) / Tomas Alfredson: *Let the Right One In* (2008) / *True Blood* (S1E1, 2008)

