

OUR VAMPIRES, OURSELVES

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Office: Odette Hall #309
Hours: Tue 1-3

Class meets **F 10-12 at SK 100**



COURSE OUTLINE

Vampires are among the most fascinating figures of popular culture. Since Bram Stoker's *Dracula* (1897) – and well before that – they 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.

The first half of the course is mainly devoted to Stoker's famed novel – we will be reading it in its entirety, so plan in enough reading time! In the second half, we will be watching and discussing truly amazing vampire movies. The semester concludes with three weeks of group presentations.

REQUIREMENTS

Thorough preparation, regular attendance and active participation! To do well, it doesn't suffice to like vampires, to have heard of *Dracula* and to have watched *Twilight*. You need to prepare all assigned texts/films prior to each session and to complete all assignments on time. Arrive punctually and be ready to engage in lively discussion! Have fun sharing your thoughts and ideas!

MATERIALS

Texts: S. Le Fanu *Carmilla* (1872) / B. Stoker: *Dracula* (1897). In addition, we will read & discuss several articles. All of these texts are posted on Quercus. Note: Texts need to be read in advance of the session they are listed!

Films: F. W. Murnau: *Nosferatu* (1922) / F. F. Coppola: *Bram Stoker's Dracula* (1992) / N. Jordan *Interview with the Vampire* (1994) / C. Hardwicke: *Twilight* (2008) / T. Alan Ball: *True Blood* (S1E1, 2008) / T. Alfredson: *Let the Right One in* (2008) / J. Jarmusch: *Only Lovers Left Alive* (2013) / A.L. Amirpour: *A Girl Walks Home Alone at Night* (2014) / J. Clement & T. Waititi: *What We Do in the Shadows* (2014)

Note: All materials will be available online: texts on Quercus and films on Kanopy. Best practice for viewing films: Form groups to view & discuss them together. In general, study groups are a great way to prepare...

EVALUATION

Participation	15%	thorough preparation, attendance & <u>active</u> participation
Reflections	15%	<u>4 reflective</u> essays on texts/films (best 3 count) / 250-300 words
Stoker Test	20%	in class / ca. 30 mins & 20 questions / concise answers
Presentation	30%	outline / handout / visual, <u>interactive</u> group presentation
Final Essay	20%	topic: cultural significance of vampire / 1000-1200 words