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 onTue 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


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 Twyker: Perfume. The Story of a Murderer (2006) / Tomas Alfredson: Let the Right One In (2008) / True Blood (S1E1, 2008)