

The University of Toronto
OUR VAMPIRES, OURSELVES
CCR 199Y / 2014-15

Instructor: **EROL BORAN** Dept: German
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Hours: M 1-3 (& by app.) Tel.: 416-926-2319

Class meets on **Thu 10-12** at **t.b.a.**

Course Outline

This course examines the figure of the vampire as a potent cultural metaphor showing how every age embraces the vampire it needs and gets the vampire it deserves. Our course consists of three parts: (1) First we focus on the best-known and most influential vampire novel: Bram Stoker's *Dracula* (1897). We critically engage with the Stoker paradigm and learn about Victorian times, issues of race and colonization, sex and gender, illness, religion and the Enlightenment, as well as the novel's relevance for today's vampires and readers. (2) Next we investigate a German novel that introduces a rather unusual vampire figure: Patrick Süskind's *The Perfume* (1985). Instead of drinking his victims' blood, he inhales their scents – but still killing them in the process. Where *Dracula* represented, among other things, an archaic past that comes to haunt the present, Süskind's *Grenouille* ('frog') personifies the dark side of Enlightenment. (3) Finally we probe contemporary representations of the vampire. This part is substantially driven by student presentations, which allows participants to develop and share their own interests and points-of-view, as well as raise relevant questions. Throughout the course we reflect on issues of self and society and develop a structured approach to critical thinking. Attention: There will be four film screenings scheduled outside of class, either on Mondays or Wednesdays 7-9:30pm (to be determined in class). Attendance is mandatory.

Evaluation

Active Participation	10%	(class is based on thorough preparation & participation)
Reading Reflections	25%	(short bi-weekly postings of 250-300 words)
Midterm Exam	15%	(on Stoker's <i>Dracula</i> and Süskind's <i>Perfume</i>)
Presentation	25%	(on relevant contemporary vampire-related topic)
Final Essay	15%	(on development of vampire motive & its relevance)

Books to Be Purchased

Bram Stoker: *Dracula* (1897): Norton Critical Edition ed. by Nina Auerbach & David Skal (ISBN: 0393970124) / **Patrick Süskind: *The Perfume*** (1985; ISBN: 0375725849)

We need these books in the first class session already, so order your copy as soon as possible. I recommend using bookdepository.ca or amazon.ca.